



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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## *Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

### **Approved May 13, 2026, Full Board Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly full board meeting virtually via Zoom and in person at 1 Science.gov Way on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached. A video of the meeting is available on the board's YouTube, [www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos).

#### **Members Present**

Brandon Adcock  
Sammantha Ashley  
Kris Bartholomew  
Mary Butler  
Laure Clark  
Harold Conner, Jr.  
Paul Dill  
Rosario Gonzalez  
Lauren LaLuzerne

Kenneth Lewis  
Harriett McCurdy  
Otto Merz  
Charles Moore  
Melanie Rogers  
Kelli Thompson  
Tom Tuck  
Matt Van Dalen

#### **Members Absent**

Thomas McCormick  
Tonya Shannon

Michael Sharpe

#### **Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present**

Teresa Robbins, DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) Deputy Manager  
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM  
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM  
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)  
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA

#### **Others Present**

Leah Alexander, OREM  
Brian Begley, EPA  
Jana Dawson, EPA  
Emily Day, UCOR  
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff

Mary Magleby, UCOR  
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff  
Karen Thompson, OREM  
Anne Wallace, OREM

6 members of the public were present.

### **Liaison Comments**

**Ms. Robbins** – Ms. Robbins gave members an overview of OREM activities since the last board meeting. She discussed recent and upcoming work at Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), including disposal of debris from the demolition of Alpha-2 and deactivation and demolition (D&D) of Beta-1 and Beta-4. Regarding cleanup work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), she said there has been very good progress deactivating the Isotope Row buildings and preparations are underway for demolition. Lastly, she said ORSSAB is currently recruiting new members and asked members to share info about the board with anyone they believe may be a good fit.

**Mr. Petrie** – None

**Mr. Czartoryski** – None

**Ms. Urquhart-Foster** – Ms. Urquhart-Foster said the EPA had recently participated in several focus groups targeting larger programmatic topics. Topics have included development of strategies to address mercury at Y-12 and Upper East Fork Poplar Creek and development of strategies for extending or accelerating Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-compliant cleanup at Y-12. She also discussed EPA participation in land transfers at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). Ms. Urquhart-Foster then introduced Jana Dawson, the current EPA Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) project manager for the Oak Ridge site.

### **Presentation**

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM's Karen Thompson to discuss OREM's FY 2028 Budget Development and Prioritization.

Ms. Thompson first gave members an overview of the federal budget process. She said each department submits a budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which then consolidates those budgets and prioritizes them. That prioritized budget is then sent for the President's approval before being submitted to Congress. She then further broke down the process after the proposed budget reached Congress through to when the President signs the bill into law and OREM receives its budget.

Ms. Thompson said before all that happens, each individual office develops a budget. She said OREM maintains a comprehensive work plan that reflects all the priorities and work scope for the site for a life cycle. That life cycle is consistent with the site's federal facility agreements (FFAs) and gives an overall look at the work needed on the site. She said differences encountered between previously planned work and actual work are accounted for in the budget development process. She then described how OREM uses that comprehensive work plan to map out future work and prioritize the budget. She said the work is organized into four categories: maintaining safe and compliant operations, meeting regulatory milestones, enabling needed infrastructure, and continuing ongoing cleanup activities. After the site receives a planning target from headquarters, the plan is refined to fit within that target dollar amount.

She then discussed OREM's priorities, which include maintaining and operating facilities at ORNL and Y-12, disposition of legacy transuranic contact-handled (CH) / remote-handled (RH) debris and sludges,

disposition of uranium-233 (U-233) material, closure and reindustrialization of East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), developing infrastructure to enable cleanup, and demolishing excess contaminated facilities at ORNL and Y-12.

Ms. Thompson next briefly discussed an extract from the FY 2026 Enacted budget, with an overview of budgeted amounts for example Oak Ridge projects, followed by a discussion on OREM's FY 2026 and FY 2027 planned accomplishments.

Ms. Thompson concluded her presentation by discussing the current status of the federal budget and added that this is an opportunity for the board to provide input on the FY 2028 budget.

Board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Czartoryski asked at which point during the budget process ORSSAB's budget recommendation is considered.
  - Ms. Thompson said it is before the first step listed in the Federal Budget Process diagram. OREM includes the ORSSAB budget recommendation in the OREM budget request sent to the OMB.
- Ms. McCurdy asked whether concerns about the mercury treatment facility (MTF) came from people working on the facility running into problems or from above in the organization.
  - Mr. Petrie said it was both. He said it was not one particular issue. There were multiple factors that led to conversations between Oak Ridge and headquarters. The decision was made to pause the project and find better ways to meet the original goals of the project.
- Mr. Conner asked for additional information about funding for liquid gaseous waste operations (LGWO).
  - Ms. Thompson and Ms. Robbins discussed funding for LGWO operations and infrastructure.
- Mr. Czartoryski asked whether there can be continued input into the budget process beyond ORSSAB's budget recommendation.
  - Mr. Petrie said there are various methods throughout the federal budget process, including writing to Congressional representatives, the President's office, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).
- Mr. Bartholomew asked if there is a problem with the budget.
  - Mr. Petrie said the current funding trajectories are not uncommon, and he encouraged viewing the Congressional website to look at the historical budget requests.

Public Questions

- Mr. Dan Peter asked what criteria are used to award technological contracts.
  - Ms. Robbins said the criteria for each project are defined in the request for proposal (RFP). Mr. Petrie said those requests are very dependent on the scope and scale of the project.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson discussed work in nuclear facilities on the Oak Ridge Reservation under other transaction agreements, the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) transition to the Office of Legacy Management, Outfall 200 MTF alternatives, UCOR Procurement Forecasting, the Recommendation on the Construction of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), public involvement in Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) activities, Tennessee’s proposal for a nuclear lifecycle innovation campus, Orana Project IKE, Oklo, and Kairos Power. (see attached)

### **Board Business/Motions**

- Mr. Bartholomew discussed Chairs Recommendation on reuse/recycling and asked for a motion to approve the recommendation as written.
  - 5.13.26.1 Motion made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Conner. Motion passed.
- Mr. Bartholomew directed members to the draft recommendation on the construction of the EMDF and discussed highlights of the recommendation. He asked for a motion to approve the recommendation with edits to the background portion of the recommendation.
  - 5.13.26.2 Motion made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Ms. McCurdy. Motion passed.

### **Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report**

Ms. Noe said DOE will respond to the recommendation on EMDF within 60 days of receiving it. She added that recruitment is underway for the board and encouraged members to contact staff if they have anyone who may be interested.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the executive committee discussed the budget, the Chairs’ recommendation and EMDF recommendation, and member recruitment. The next meeting is June 3.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Merz said the committee discussed Tim Walsh’s visit, OREM’s progress, and future land uses at ETTP. The next meeting is June 24.

### **Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion**

None

### **Action Items**

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the May 13, 2026, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KB A' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Kris Bartholomew, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kelli Thompson'.

Kelli Thompson, Secretary

August 11, 2026

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

KB/sbm

Public Comment to Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board  
May 13, 2026  
Luther Gibson  
ORSSAB Member (1999-2005), Chair (2000-2002)  
DOE Oak Ridge Contractor Employee (1977-2017)  
Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees Board of Directors (2019-)

### **Work in Nuclear Facilities on Oak Ridge Reservation Under Other Transaction Agreements**

In December, Standard Nuclear announced that it had executed an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) with the Department of Energy (DOE) transitioning key operational elements from Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to full DOE Oversight. DOE Nuclear Energy Launch Pad pilot programs have also been initiated to allow access to not only Idaho National Laboratory but other sites around the nation. I have pointed out that OREM's removal of DOE facility risks at ETP in 2022 led to elimination of emergency planning zone sectors. Construction and operation of new potential DOE Nuclear Facility Hazard Category 2 and/or Operational Emergency Hazardous Material Program facilities should be considered a serious undertaking. Discussions with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and the OREM Manager and Deputy Manager have revealed this activity to be proceeding under authority outside their purview. The OREM Deputy Manager found and communicated back through ORSSAB staff that DOE Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) revised regulations and orders under an OTA contract with NE are governing. Under the revised NE Order 151.1, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*, approval, review, and implementation of requirements is responsibility an NE Field Element Manager or Safety Basis Approval Authority. How was that NE authority established in Oak Ridge and what hazard screening results, conclusions, and decisions on need for emergency planning and nuclear facility safety requirements have they approved?

### **ETTP Transition to Office of Legacy Management**

According to the March 2026 Site Management Guide (Update 36), East Tennessee Technology Park is a site planning to transition in 2037. That is the latest future date ever presented as the planning has fluctuated. Any need to transition at all should be reconsidered, given the almost assured certainty of some type of DOE perpetual presence in the community.

### **Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility Alternatives**

Informal dispute has been invoked among the FFA parties. This should be a higher priority issue in current public involvement, given the sunk costs that have been incurred.

### **UCOR Procurement Forecasting**

UCOR's 90-day forecast for subcontracts and services includes Rarity Ridge Water Treatment Plant Upgrades. Presumably this includes a final solution to the migration of technetium-99 from sewer lines at ETP. This forecast also has several EMDF associated tasks: EMDF Support Facility Buildings, EMDF Landfill Water Treatment Tank Farm, EMDF Landfill Water Treatment System, EMDF Balance of Construction, and Tank Farm Borehole Drilling & Sampling.

### **Recommendation on the Construction of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility**

Recommendation reflects a predictable reaction to messaging presented to the Board and limited interest in information beyond that.

**Public Involvement in CERCLA Activities**

Communication could be improved regarding the need for and initiation of removal actions, the status of numerous decision documents including significant and non-significant changes, and partial deletions from the National Priorities List. There are also non-CERCLA environmental activities occurring such as removal of permitted outfalls that should interest the public more if they were aware.

**Tennessee's Proposal for a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus**

It is somewhat aligned with what is emerging but also promotes interim storage and/or staging of used nuclear fuel and components at redacted locations, use of the Haul Road for purposes it was not approved, and questionable optimism that a long-term repository could be sited within the state.

**Orano Project IKE**

Separate Section 106 historic preservation reviews and consultations appear to be underway. The NRC and DOE OREM have developed an MOU to establish DOE's cooperating agency relationship for the purpose of efficiently coordinating environmental reviews relating to an application from Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) for an NRC license to construct and operate a uranium enrichment facility in Roane County, Tennessee. This should enhance opportunities for local public involvement. EPA NEPA review of NRC EISs on local projects should include Region 4 Remedial Project Managers assigned to Oak Ridge. They should be reviewing environmental reports submitted by applicants as well.

**Oklo**

TDEC reviewed a Supplemental Environmental Investigation Soil and Groundwater Management Plan submitted by Oklo. A copy of the actual document reviewed has been elusive.

**Kairos Power**

NRC issued a Summary Report for the Regulatory Audit of Hermes Site Characteristics and Geologic Mapping Condition. Although the information is intended to confirm site information affecting safety related construction, the geologic mapping will also supplement the knowledge of the subsurface features at the Hermes site. It would seem logical for OREM and UCOR to seek to review that information for any significance to their legacy responsibilities.