

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Monthly Meeting



Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6 p.m.

The mission of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) is to provide informed advice and recommendations concerning site specific issues related to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Environmental Management (EM) Program at the Oak Ridge Reservation. In order to provide unbiased evaluation and recommendations on the cleanup efforts related to the Oak Ridge site, the Board seeks opportunities for input through collaborative dialogue with the communities surrounding the Oak Ridge Reservation, governmental regulators, and other stakeholders.

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1. The Recommendation Process & You
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BOARD ISSUES

1. Draft Recommendation on OREM FY 2028 Budget Request
2. Officer Slate

REPORTS & MEMOS

1. Response to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Letter *Recommendation 260: On the construction of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation*
2. FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

REFERENCE INFORMATION

1. Calendars: August & September (draft)



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
OREM Update/Work Plan
Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6 p.m.
DOE Information Center & Virtually via Zoom

AGENDA

6:00–6:05 Welcome (5)

- Opening Remarks – K. Bartholomew
- Comments from agency representatives – T. Robbins
- Comments from R. Petrie, K. Czartoryski, J. Dawson

6:05–6:50 OREM Program Overview, topics, and work plan– R. Petrie (45)

- Questions on the presentation (5)

6:50–7:10 Input on Work Plan (20)

- Suggestions from EPA (5)
- Suggestions from TDEC (5)
- Suggestions from Members (10)

7:10–7:25 Process and Plan for Issue Groups/Recommendations – M. Noe (15)

7:25–7:40 Public Comment Period (15)

This ends the presentation portion of the meeting

7:40–7:55 Board Business (15)

- Update on EM Stewardship – C. Moore
 - Discuss and vote on Budget Recommendation
 - No August meeting scheduled (unless needed)
- Officer nominations - M. Noe

7:55–8:00 Closing Remarks – M. Noe, K. Bartholomew (5)

- Board Photo
- Next Meeting – October 14, 2026

The Recommendation Process & You

1. **Topic presentation given to the board at its monthly meeting as assigned from the work plan.**
 - a. The board meeting is where you will receive the most comprehensive overview of the topic from an expert on the issue. The expert outlines the challenges they are trying to solve, the remediation actions being taken currently and how those are progressing, and any future plans, etc. The most recent recommendation will be provided, if applicable, to help orient you to previous discussion on the topic. Ask questions!
 - b. For some topics, a tour may also provide an opportunity to become more educated on the issue and ask additional questions. It's a great idea to take your notes with you on the tour to review and ask additional questions as you think of them. Bring new insights to the upcoming committee discussion.
2. **The EM & Stewardship Committee meets for follow on discussion.**
 - a. The committee will decide whether or not to make a recommendation and begin crafting it
 - b. This is a working meeting. A subject matter expert will be on hand for detailed questions as members discuss potential recommendation items. Issue group members should gather ideas from the committee's discussion.
3. **The Issue group, led by an issue manager, further discusses the issue and compiles ideas into a draft document.**
 - a. The first duty of the issue group is to select an issue manager to facilitate the discussion and compile the group's thoughts into a coherent list.
 - b. Communication by the issue group can be in person or via email; staff can assist with meeting space on site, or members may go elsewhere.
 - c. Staff can assist with background and discussion portions of the document. Actual recommendation directives must come from the members.
4. **The Issue manager finalizes the draft and presents it for discussion and vote at a future EM & Stewardship Committee meeting**
 - a. Complex issues may take more than one meeting to resolve, but timeliness is also important.

The Recommendation Process & You

5. **The EM & Stewardship Committee votes on the recommendation.**
 - a. It may approve the recommendation or send it back to the issue group for further development
 - b. Returns for edits may happen more than once, but once a vote is passed there may be no further discussion or changes.
6. **The approved recommendation sent to the Executive Committee.**
 - a. The Executive Committee may make minor edits.
 - b. It will voted to put the recommendation to the full board or it may choose to send the draft back to committee for additional work
7. **The board discusses the recommendation.**
 - a. If not passed unanimously, the recommendation may include a written minority opinion to accompany the recommendation.
 - b. The board may make additional edits or return the recommendation to the committee level.
8. **The approved recommendation is sent to DOE, which must respond to the recommendation in writing.**

The Recommendation Process & You

Desired Qualities in Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendations

Recommendations should be focused exclusively on the EM mission, and primarily on the EM mission in Oak Ridge. If questions exist on the appropriateness of a given subject, please consult with DOE staff.

Ideally recommendations will focus on goals and outcomes, rather than the details of how to reach an outcome. For example, it is helpful to hear from the Board on whether or not they support onsite disposal of any cleanup waste, and thoughts on alternative sites, but less helpful to provide recommendations on the technical details of how to construct a facility. Put differently, try to stay focused on the “big picture” and avoid moving into project management and engineering.

DOE is particularly interested in the Board’s views on the Oak Ridge area’s perspective on EM activities. Remember that this is intentionally established as a citizen’s advisory panel and not a panel of technical experts (though we do have members with strong expertise in relevant areas).

New ideas and cordial critiques are welcome. Don’t hold back, just keep those focus on positive contribution.

EXAMPLE Recommendation Template

Title: Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation ### On The Example Topic

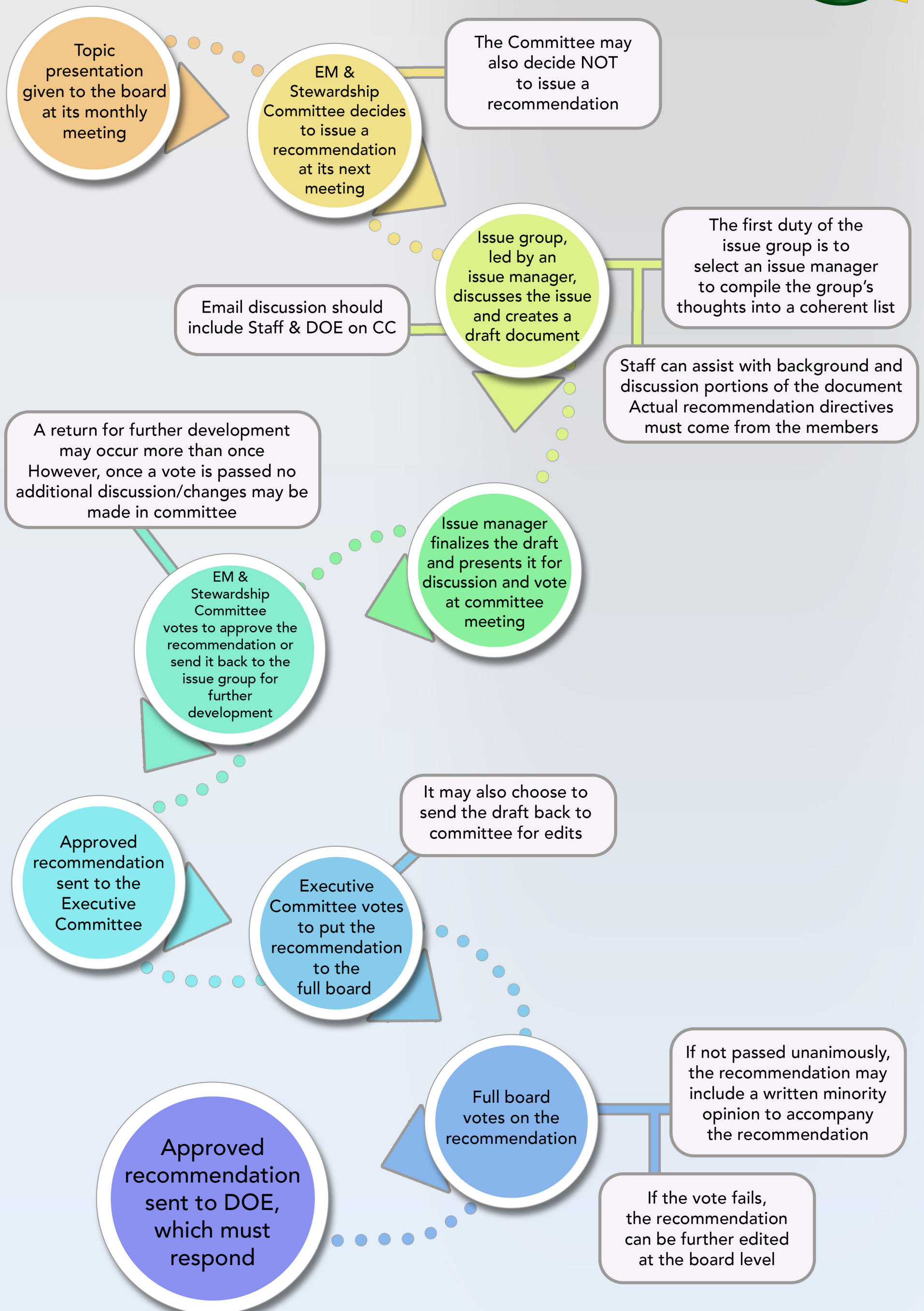
Background: *Staff will assist and members may edit.* A few paragraphs giving an overview of the issue and some history, including perhaps previous actions by DOE and partner agencies. Graphics or diagrams that help illustrate the issue.

Discussion: *Staff will assist and members may edit.* Brief overview of the history of actions/recommendations by the board on the issue, including the most recent meeting(s).

Recommendation(s): Brief summary of the board’s broad feelings on the topic and direction requested to be taken by DOE. Includes a list of particular items or subjects to be addressed and/or actions ranked by importance.



THE RECOMMENDATION PROCESS





Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation ###: On the FY 2028 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget Priorities

Background

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year (FY) two years beyond the current year, including requests from DOE field offices to develop the EM Program budget request to the president.

DOE-EM Headquarters typically issues guidelines to the field offices advising them how much funding they should reasonably expect when developing their FY+2 budget requests. The field offices then brief the public, the regulatory agencies, and the respective site-specific advisory boards and seek input from each regarding budget requests.

On May 13, 2026, representatives from the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program presented information about its FY 2028 budget formulation process to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB). This presentation provided content and discussions that ORSSAB used to draft its recommendations.

Discussion

In creating its recommendations for the FY 2027 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified by OREM. Project-specific objectives provided additional details for discussions that took place at the May 27, 2025, EM & Stewardship Committee meeting.

The board also referred to the current [EM Budget Request](#), and the board's [previous Recommendations](#), as well as documentation from OREM on how previous recommendations were implemented in past budget requests for additional guidance on budget recommendations.¹

Recommendations

ORSSAB supports OREM's cleanup plan and recommends fully funding the activities that are currently supported by that plan for FY 2028. OREM's goals are in bold with ORSSAB's specific concerns are highlighted as sub-topics where needed:

- **Maintaining excess facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12)**
- **Dispositioning U-233 and other legacy materials (nickel, sodium shields, transuranic contact- and remote-handled debris and sludge, etc.)**

¹ All documents are available on www.energy.gov/orem or www.energy.gov/orssab.

- **Continuing reindustrialization of the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) through property transfers and site reuse support programs**
 - Obtain adequate funding to implement current regulatory commitments for contaminated groundwater at ETTP. Many areas have been transferred to the public while contaminated groundwater remains to be addressed.
 - Accelerate implementation of existing groundwater remediation commitments to ensure final closure of ETTP
 - Complete historic preservation at K-25 / ETTP
- **Accelerating infrastructure development to enable future cleanup, focusing on the Mercury Treatment Facility (MTF) and CERCLA waste disposal facility**
 - ORSSAB acknowledges the need for a pause in the Mercury Treatment Facility. It continues to be concerned about water treatment needs in the future
 - Based on past best practices, ORSSAB feels it is important to maintain the integrity of the existing structure until a decision is made
 - Investigate the option to retain some portions of the Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility, such as the headworks piece
 - Increase funding for mercury remediation technology (possibly using money previously marked for Outfall 200)
 - Support research into mercury and methylmercury pollution and development of new and improved technologies
 - Reduce mercury contamination in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek which continues to exit Y-12 into the City of Oak Ridge and surrounding community
 - Mitigate the presence of methylmercury in Bear Creek
 - Protect against inadvertent releases of mercury from demolition projects in the West End Mercury Area (WEMA)
 - Ensure funding for startup of EMDF allows operational overlap with closing of EMWMF
- **Demolishing excess contaminated facilities**
 - Implement a remediation strategy that allows beneficial reuse of the property, is protective of human health and the environment, and saves on overall costs.
 - Procure funding to accelerate remediation of soil in areas where new facilities are planned.

Other issues of interest to ORSSAB include:

- Supporting research and development activities and funding contracts for academia for the next generation of nuclear workers
- Allocating funds for the repair/upgrade of Liquid and Gaseous Waste Operations
- Ensure future facilities can process wastewater in ways that reduce need to truck liquids offsite

OREM and its contractors have continuously demonstrated an effective cost-to-value that leads the nation among federally funded facilities over a significant period of time and are recognized for their cleanup progress. ORSSAB recommends funding the FY 2028 budget to include all activities necessary to complete these cleanup priorities in an effective, timely and safe manner. Based on OREM's record of performance and effective project management, ORSSAB recommends additional funding wherever possible to accelerate the FY 2028 cleanup plan. With this support, OREM will continue to play a pivotal role in the nation's nuclear renaissance.

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Officer Elections

Potential Slate of Candidates

Officer elections were announced at the June 2026 meeting. Staff also communicated by email to solicit interest in running for board officer positions.

The following candidates expressed interest in sitting on the Executive Committee for this upcoming year. The following list of candidates is submitted for information purposes. Elections will be held at the October ORSSAB meeting and nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

- Chair:
Kris Bartholomew – Kris is currently chair. He has been a member of the board since 2022.
- Vice Chair:
Charles Moore – Charles is currently vice chair and has been a member of the board since 2023
- Secretary:
Kelli Thompson – Kelli is currently secretary and has been a member of the board since 2024

As a reminder to all, the following are the rules for the election of Executive Committee officers:

A quorum must be present throughout the meeting.

Chair (or designee): Nominations have been presented for (name) as chair; (name) as vice chair; and (name) as secretary. Are there any further nominations for (chair, then other positions in turn)?

- Any member of the board can put themselves forward for an office at the meeting when nominations from the floor are requested.
- A member can nominate another board member during the meeting **if they have that person's consent**.

The co-chairs of the EM Stewardship Committee are also members of the Executive Committee. Elections for those positions will take place at the October EM Stewardship meeting. For informational purposes:

- Co chairs:
Laure Clark – Laure is currently co-chair and has been a member of the board since 2024
- **Otto Merz** - Otto is currently co-chair and has been a member of the board since 2024

As a reminder, elected officers:

- Meet virtually approximately once a month (generally the first Wednesday of the month) to discuss board business such as recommendations, following up on action items, and draft/approve meeting agendas;
- Lead the monthly meetings;
- Receive correspondence from DOE/EPA/TDEC about cleanup and bring items of interest to the board
- Represent the board at occasional events, such as the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting twice a year to conference with other boards. Likewise, they are given priority for some external training opportunities.



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management

P.O. Box 4067

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

June 29, 2026

Mr. Kris Bartholomew
Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 4067
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Mr. Kris Bartholomew:

**RESPONSE TO THE OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD LETTER
RECOMMENDATION 260: ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT DISPOSAL FACILITY AT THE U.S. DOE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION**

Thank you for your May 18, 2026, letter with a recommendation regarding the construction of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) response to the eight items in the recommendation are given below:

1. **Funding:** *Ensure that funding is secured and prioritized to provide no less than two years overlapping operation of the proposed EMDF and the existing EMWMF given the fact that EMWMF is currently at 86 percent capacity. Whenever possible, DOE should seek efficiencies to accelerate design and construction of EMDF to enable it to open as early as possible.*

Response: Within its planning budgets and scheduling of future cleanup scope, DOE has accounted for the need to begin operation of the EMDF two years prior to attaining capacity in the existing Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF). DOE submits a yearly budget estimate to the Office of Management and Budget that reflects full compliance with all OREM environmental commitments. This budget submittal considers the prioritization needs of OREM, and securing the funding is part of the submittal process. DOE will continue to seek efficiencies in project execution to accelerate the design and construction of the EMDF where feasible.

2. **Community Engagement:** *Although communication with stakeholders is part of the CERCLA process, emphasis should be placed on direct and iterative contact with the residential communities that are near the proposed EMDF site. We recommend these meetings include the status of the design, construction efforts, and final timelines for completion of each critical phase. Also, consideration should be given to publicizing dates, times and locations of the meetings to ensure the public is aware they are taking place.*

Response: OREM is committed to conducting all the robust communication efforts listed in its EMDF Community Outreach Plan, which was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. At each stage of this project, OREM has fulfilled, and even exceeded, those outreach commitments to ensure full public awareness about this important project.

The public comment period for the EMDF Proposed Plan was originally scheduled to run from September 10, 2018, to October 26, 2018, but OREM extended the deadline to December 10, 2018, to ensure all interested parties have adequate time to review and provide comments on the document.

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Consistent with previous recommendation requests, OREM scheduled information sessions immediately after the EMDF Proposed Plan was released to begin dialogue and interactions with residents and stakeholders. OREM hosted the first information session on September 13, 2018, at the DOE Information Center and the second information session on October 2, 2018, at the East Tennessee Economic Council Building. OREM also supported a third information session that was hosted by the Sierra Club at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation office on October 11, 2018. Additionally, OREM hosted a formal public meeting about the project on November 7, 2018, at the Y-12 National Security Complex New Hope Center.

OREM has taken numerous steps to ensure the community is aware of every opportunity to learn more about the project and have their voice heard. Specifics about the information sessions and public meetings have been posted in the Knoxville News Sentinel, Oak Ridger, and Roane County News. Details have also been available on the OREM homepage and social media accounts. OREM also sent out more than 15,000 mailers to every household in Oak Ridge inviting them to the public meeting on November 7, 2018.

The information sessions were very beneficial. Participants were able to obtain valuable information from posters, fact sheets, and speaking with all the project managers associated with the EMDF. Federal and contractor personnel were able to answer all questions from the attendees directly, share project timelines, and inform them of the opportunities and methods to share their input. Those sessions resulted in multiple news stories about the project, which enabled OREM to connect with local organizations interested in learning more about the EMDF.

OREM offered another public comment period from May 9, 2022 to June 7, 2022, hosted a public meeting, and provided additional materials about the project before the Record of Decision was signed.

The Environmental Quality Advisory Board and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning each requested and received tours of the proposed EMDF site.

OREM has conducted outreach for this project in many other ways and has provided briefings to local officials and community organizations and presentations at local, regional, and national meetings on the topic.

OREM has continued steady outreach as the project progresses. In July 2023, OREM and United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC hosted more than 50 guests and community members on a guided tour to observe progress on the construction of the EMDF. The tour offered guests a view of the project's scale, completed work, and current activities. Participants disembarked from the bus on the EMDF footprint for an informational session hosted by Subject Matter Experts. Those experts provided in-depth project information and progress details, with the facility as the backdrop. OREM also discusses the project at its annual community poster sessions and provides regular updates through its national newsletter and monthly newscast.

OREM also discussed this topic at the March Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meeting, which included a tour of the site. This public meeting provides another opportunity for the community to learn about the project, ask questions, and share opinions.

3. ***Waste Disposal Capacity:*** *As the EMDF design is finalized and construction begins, DOE should continue to evaluate and ensure that the facility will have the capacity to complete cleanup of the ORR. Wherever possible, DOE should seek programmatic efficiencies to reduce the volume of materials for onsite disposal.*

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Response: DOE has included in all its calculations throughout the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan a 25 percent uncertainty factor (increase) in waste volumes projected for disposal in an onsite facility. DOE will continue to carry this 25 percent increase/ uncertainty factor throughout the Record of Decision and design phases for the future EMDF to ensure adequate capacity. DOE is also actively seeking and implementing programmatic efficiencies to reduce the overall volume of waste requiring disposal.

4. **Contingency Planning:** *Current plans presume EMDF will be open in time to provide overlap with closure of EMWMF. However, DOE should continue evolving its contingency plan/scheduling to ensure there will not be a work stoppage in cleanup if EMDF construction is delayed.*

Response: DOE and OREM recognize the critical importance of a seamless transition from the EMWMF to the EMDF to prevent any delay in cleanup operations. OREM project scheduling and risk management plans include contingency planning to mitigate potential delays. These plans are continuously reviewed and evolved as the project progresses to ensure the cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation is not impacted by construction timelines.

5. **Budget for Operation of the Completed Facility:** *Funding should be allocated and prioritized for the post-construction phase that includes future monitoring and functioning of the facility for requirements stipulated in the ROD and other relevant documents.*

a. *Ensure monitoring continues during construction and ongoing operations.*

Response: DOE has conducted extensive characterization efforts to understand site-specific conditions, including the installation of numerous piezometers to monitor hydrologic and seismic data. This monitoring is ongoing and will continue throughout the construction and operational phases of the facility to ensure all design and safety requirements are met and maintained. The budget for long-term monitoring and maintenance is included in DOE long-term stewardships estimates.

6. **Water Treatment:** *Since EMDF will have its own water treatment facilities, DOE should strongly consider designing those facilities to include capacity to also treat water from EMWMF. Specifically, piping water directly from EMWMF to EMDF would be ideal. This will be a safer and more cost-effective alternative to the current practice of trucking water to ORNL.*

Response: DOE appreciates the Board's suggestion regarding the co-treatment of leachate from the EMWMF at the new EMDF water treatment facility. The project team will evaluate the feasibility, safety benefits, and cost-effectiveness of this concept as part of the ongoing design process.

7. **Post-Closure Stewardship:** *Develop a plan for the ongoing stewardship and funding mechanism for monitoring and maintenance of the facility once it is closed.*

Response: DOE will be responsible for the EMDF periodic maintenance and monitoring, as well as any unscheduled maintenance that may be necessary once the facility has been closed. The funding necessary to carry out these responsibilities has been included in the DOE long-term stewardship estimates. The mechanism by which this funding would be made available will be managed through the DOE Office of Legacy Management. Furthermore, DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management*, and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requirements stipulate the need for a comprehensive monitoring and maintenance closure plan to be developed for the facility to ensure its protectiveness to the public and environment in perpetuity.

Mr. Kris Bartholomew

-4-

June 29, 2026

**RESPONSE TO THE OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD LETTER
*RECOMMENDATION 260: ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT DISPOSAL FACILITY AT THE U.S. DOE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION***

Thank you for your continued focus and attention to support the important Environmental Cleanup Mission.

If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Morgan Carden at 340-5164 or me at 576-0742.

Sincerely,

**THEODORE
OLDS**

Digitally signed by
THEODORE OLDS
Date: 2026.06.29
12:46:13 -04'00'

Theodore E. Olds
Manager

cc:

Morgan Carden, EM-92

Joanna Hardin, EM-94

Dennis Mayton, EM-921

Melyssa Noe, EM-942

Roger Petrie, EM-942

Teresa Robbins, EM-90

Mike Vestal, EM-921

Ben Williams, EM-942



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
200	6/2/2026	Vestal & Petrie, DOE	Dawson, EPA	EPA Approval Milestone Addition Sediment Retention Basin RmAR	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
201	6/3/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	Addendum to the Zone 1 Groundwater Plumes Remedial Investigation Work Plan for Exit Pathway Monitoring, ETPP (DOE-OR-01-2903&D2-A3)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
202	6/3/2026	Petrie, DOE	Sayer, EPA	EPA comments on the Remedial Design Report/Remedial Action Work Plan (RDR/RAWP) for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Support Facilities and Infrastructure (DOE/OR/01-3030&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
203	6/5/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Waste Acceptance Criteria Compliance Plan for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3012&D2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
204	6/8/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Approval Transmittal of the Remedial Design Report/Remedial Action Work Plan for the Demolition of Building 3042, the Oak Ridge Research Reactor, at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2908&D2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
205	6/10/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden, DOE	Transmittal of the Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision for Phase II Interim Remedial Actions for Contaminated Soils and Scrapyard in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek, Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Former New Hope Pond (DOE/OR/01-3029&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
206	6/11/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Comments on the Fiscal Year 2026 PCCR for the Oak Ridge Reservation EMWMF (DOE-OR-01-3028&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
207	6/12/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Approval RE: Extension Request for Waste Acceptance Criteria Compliance Plan for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3012&D2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
208	6/17/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Addendum to the Removal Action Work Plan for the Y-12 Facilities Deactivation/Demolition Project, Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Beta-4 Complex Pre-Demolition (DOE/OR/01-2479&D1/A17/R2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
209	6/17/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Federal Facility Agreement Milestone Addition Request for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
210	6/22/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	Notice of Noncompliance for Discharges to UEFPC from the OF200 MTF Headworks Dewatering	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
211	6/22/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	FFA Milestone Addition Request for the EMDF RDR-RAWP D1 for the Landfill Wastewater Treatment System (LWTS)—May 27, 2027	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
212	6/22/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Addendum to the RAWP for the Y-12 Facilities Deactivation-Demolition Project, OR, TN A19-R1- Demolition of Facility 9720-17, Warehouse-Industrial	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
213	6/22/2026	McLean, NMED	Adkins, TDEC	TDEC Comments RE WIPP Permit Modification	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
214	6/24/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Federal Facility Agreement Milestone Addition Request for the White Wing Scrap Yard	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
215	6/24/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Erratum Pages for the Time-Critical Action Memorandum for the Phase I Removal Action at the White Wing Scrap Yard, Oak Ridge National Priorities List Site, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3015&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
216	6/24/2026	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Dawson, EPA	Milestones additions White Wing Scrap Yard	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
217	6/26/2026	Petrie, DOE	Sayer, EPA	EPA Comments RE : Fiscal Year 2026 Phased Construction Completion Report for the Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (DOE/OR/01-3028&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
218	6/29/2026	Barotholomew, ORSSAB	Olds, DOE	Response to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Letter Recommendation 260 On the Construction of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
219	6/30/2026	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Dawson, EPA	EPA Approval Milestone for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Oak Ridge Reservation Waste Disposal at the Environmental Management Disposal Facility, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2794&D2/R2): Remedial Design Report (RDR)/Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) D1 for the Landfill Wastewater Treatment System (LWTS)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
220	7/1/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Approval Letter for the Addition of Federal Facility Agreement Milestones for the White Wing Scrapyard	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
221	7/1/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Performance Modeling for Environmental Management Disposal Facility Waste Acceptance Criteria Development (DOE/OR/01-3034&DI)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
222	7/2/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Griswold & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Phased Construction Completion Report for Remediation of Soils, Slabs, and Subsurface Infrastructure in the 7025 Area Of Exposure Unit 9 at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3027&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
223	7/6/2026	Petrie, DOE	Poe, EPA	EPA Letter to DOE Regarding Y-12 Soil Milestones	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
224	7/6/2026	Petrie, DOE	Poe, EPA	EPA Letter to DOE Regarding MTF Milestone Request Letter	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
225	7/7/2026	Petrie, DOE	Dawson, EPA	EPA Letter conveying U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's priorities for funding for CERCLA cleanup activities at the ORR	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
226	7/8/2026	Burchfield & Guy, DOE	Lutz, TDEC	TDEC Comments Re TDEC, DLP- RB ORO, FY27 EMP, July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
227	7/9/2026	Petrie, DOE	Richards, EPA	EPA Approval of extension request for : ID 14004 FINAL-Federal Facility Agreement Milestone Revision Request for the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment Continuous Purge System Phased Construction Completion Report	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
228	7/10/2026	Petrie, DOE	Poe, EPA	EPA Response for Review of the Addendum to the Removal Action Work Plan for the Y-12 Facilities Deactivation/Demolition Project, Oak Ridge, Tennessee A19 – Demolition of Facility 9720-17, Warehouse/Industrial (DOE/OR/01-2479&D1/A19)R1	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
229	7/13/2026	Petrie, DOE	Sayer, EPA	Extension Request for D3 EMWMF ESD for Rad Discharge Limits	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
230	7/16/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Comments RE: Federal Facility Agreement Milestone Revision Request for the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment Continuous Purge System Phased Construction Completion Report	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
231	7/17/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	No Further Comments for the Erratum Pages for the Time-Critical Action Memorandum for the Phase I Removal Action at the White Wing Scrapyard, Oak Ridge National Priorities List Site, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3015&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
232	7/20/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Approval of the Federal Facility Agreement Review Extension Request	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
233	7/22/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Response RE RE: Transmittal of the Addendum to the Removal Action Work Plan for the Y-12 Facilities Deactivation /Demolition Project, Oak Ridge, Tennessee A19/R1 Demolition of Facility 9720-17, Warehouse/Industrial (DOE/OR/01-2479&D1/A19/R1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
234	7/23/2026	Distribution	Olds, DOE	Transmittal of the Semiannual Status Report in Accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement for Decommissioning and Demolition of the K-25 Site and Interpretation of the East Tennessee Technology Park	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
235	7/23/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	TDEC Comments RE: 2026 Remediation Effectiveness Report for the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3018&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
236	7/28/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Remedial Design Report/Remedial Action Work Plan for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility, Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Support Facilities and Infrastructure (DOE/OR/01-3030&D2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
237	7/29/2026	Petrie, DOE	Poe, EPA	EPA Comments on The Summary Report for Technology Demonstration 2: Sorption of Mercury in Waste Containers, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-3026&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
238	7/29/2026	Petrie, DOE	Marcillo, TDEC	Explanation of Significant Differences for the Record of Decision for Phase II Interim Remedial Actions for Contaminated Soils and Scrapyard in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek, Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Former New Hope Pond (DOE/OR/01-3029&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
239	7/29/2026	Petrie, DOE	Dawson, EPA	EPA Comments: 2026 Remediation Effectiveness Report for the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dated April 2026 (DOE/OR/01-3018&D1)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
240	7/30/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	Carden & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Bethel Valley Administrative Watershed Remedial Action Report Comprehensive Monitoring Plan, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2478&D4)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
241	8/4/2026	Petrie, DOE	Poe, EPA	EPA's response to the Addendum to the Removal Action Work Plan for the Y-12 Facilities Deactivation/Demolition Project, Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Beta-4 Complex Pre-Demolition (DOE/OR/01-2479&D1/A17/R2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



FY 2026 Incoming Correspondence

#	Date	To	From	Description	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt
242	8/4/2026	Dawson, EPA & Marcillo, TDEC	McIntosh & Petrie, DOE	Transmittal of the Supplemental Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Remedial Investigation of Remoning Ecology/Surface Water/Sediment at ETPP (DOE/OR/01-3016&D2)	DOEIC, Notified board officers of receipt



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

August

2026

Topic: OREM Update/Work Plan

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Executive Committee meeting – 4 p.m. (virtual)	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Full Board Meeting – 6 p.m. (hybrid)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

For information about attending meetings virtually or in person, please email orssab@orem.doe.gov at least 2 days prior to the scheduled meeting. Topic is tentative and subject to change.

ORSSAB Support Office: (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584

DOE Information Center: (865) 241-4780



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

September (draft)

2026

Topic: No full board meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day – Board Offices Closed	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

For information about attending meetings virtually or in person, please email orssab@orem.doe.gov at least 2 days prior to the scheduled meeting. Topic is tentative and subject to change.

ORSSAB Support Office: (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584

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August 5, 2026

Mr. Kris Bartholomew, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 4067, EM-94
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Bartholomew:

Fiscal Year 2027 Issues and Input for the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

The following input on subjects and issues that should be studied or tracked is offered and intended to be constructive. The topics are in no particular priority order.

East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Transition to Office of Legacy Management (LM)

LM frequently updates its Site Management Guide.¹ According to Update 36 (March 2026), ETTP is scheduled for transition in FY 2037, but previous versions of the Guide have considered earlier transitions. LM says it conducts due diligence by working on sites as much as five years ahead of transition dates. Given the cleanup remaining in Oak Ridge, not to mention additional local DOE presence beyond the foreseeable future, any transition to LM should be tabled permanently. There are already at least four Federal managers in Oak Ridge accountable to no one else locally in addition to activities being directed from the Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office.

Budget Prioritization Input

Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) will most certainly request input on FY 2029 (Already!) OREM program budget priorities. The recommendation should reflect more than the effectiveness of OREM's messaging on its priorities. The initial annual engagement from the OREM subject matter expert on planning and execution has been good but diminished by uncertainty about information that can be shared and the delayed release of budget justification details. Ability to track changes in DOE's requests through the Congressional appropriations process is impeded by inability to cross-reference Project Baseline Summary numbers in DOE's request to items in appropriation committee reports. ORSSAB could make better informed priority recommendations if it understood and tracked milestones in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) and Site Treatment Plan for Mixed Waste on the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation.

Federal Facility Agreement

A copy of the entire FFA is maintained by UCOR.² Appendix E (FY 2026-2028 Federal Facility Agreement Milestones) and Appendix J (FY 2028-2047 Non-Enforceable Out-Year Planning Targets) provide information that could be better utilized in work planning and discussions on priorities.

Site Treatment Plan (STP) for Mixed Waste on the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation

The STP delineates how DOE will treat the site's mixed wastes or develop/modify technologies when necessary to address generated and stored mixed waste at the site. The plan addresses some waste

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/lm/articles/site-management-guide>

² <https://ucor.com/regulatory-agreements-for-the-oak-ridge-reservation/>

streams that have been stored indefinitely and have milestones that have been rescheduled, perhaps most notably for transuranic (TRU) sludge stored in the Melton Valley Storage Tanks. A copy of the STP is maintained by UCOR.³

Excess Facilities Risk Reduction Activities at ORNL & Y-12

Reports on progress should provide more detail on challenges. Delays in nuclear facility D&D resulting from sequencing and coordination of activities with other DOE managers and contractors could be better explained. This has actually been cited to justify budget decreases for nuclear facility D&D in DOE-HQ requests delivered to Congress.⁴ Officials from National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Office of Science should be more available to liaise with ORSSAB on unclassified activities with environmental implications.

U-233 Disposition

Progress on dispositioning U-233 material should be reported with, in addition to societal benefits of the project, emphasis on operational experience, nuclear facility safety issues that arose and were addressed, inventory of materials too difficult to process, plans for disposition of that material, and anticipated end state of the facilities upon completion of the Isotek contract.

Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF)

In addition to reports on construction progress, issues related to waste acceptance criteria, especially mercury, and ambient water quality issues in Bear Creek Watershed should be presented with more thoroughness.

Mercury Treatment Facility

The pause in construction of this facility has been accepted but cannot be widely and fully understood. More information on the path forward is needed. A noncompliance for discharges is an indicator that the situation is far from under complete control.⁵

Ongoing Efforts to Assure Waste Disposal Capacity

This issue should encompass assurance of waste disposal capacity of all waste streams, not just those directed to on-site disposal facilities.

Groundwater

In 2023, ORSSAB supported DOE's groundwater remedy selections for the ETTP Main Plant Area and the K-31/K-33 Area with additional recommendations.⁶ There has been no substantive groundwater discussion at ORRSAB meetings since. New facilities at ETTP are required to be constructed with mitigation measures in the design for vapor intrusion due to these underlying contaminated plumes. Comments from TDEC on the 2026 Remediation Effectiveness Report disagree with conclusions presented by DOE for Oak Ridge Reservation groundwater generally regarding overall plume

³ <https://ucor.com/regulatory-agreements-for-the-oak-ridge-reservation/>

⁴ <https://www.energy.gov/documents/doe-fy-2027-volume-5-em>

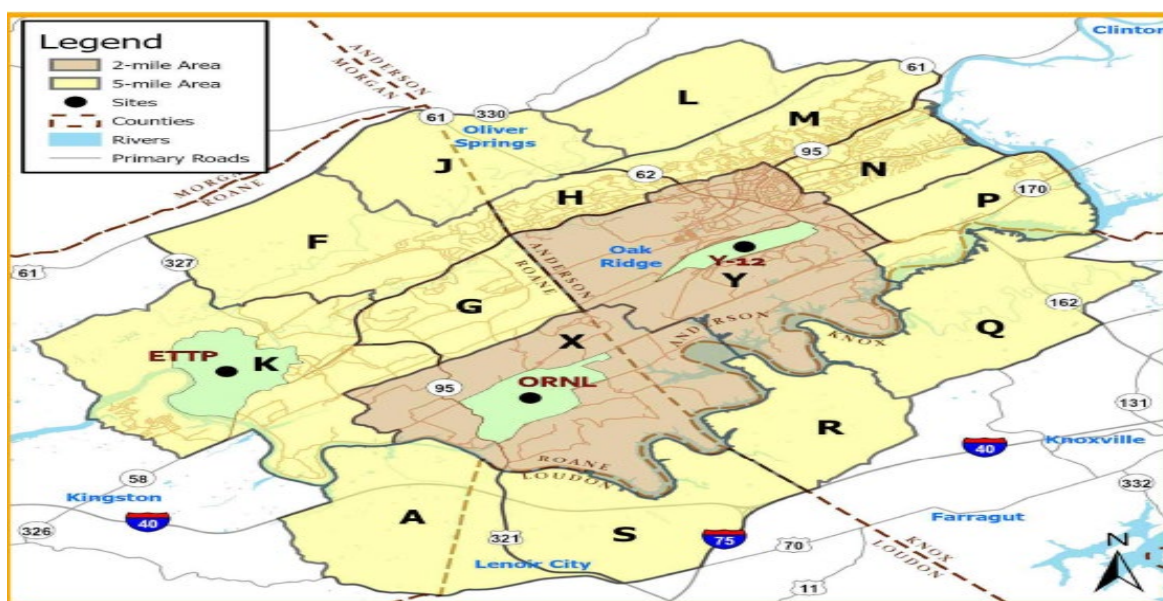
⁵ <https://orrcatn.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/06222026-Notice-of-Noncompliance.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.energy.gov/orem/articles/recommendation-255-recommendations-groundwater-remedy-selections-main-plant-and-k-31k>

degradation, attenuation, or groundwater stability.⁷ The Record of Decision for an Interim Action for Union Valley, Upper East Fork Creek Characterization Area requires that DOE notify licensed well drillers in Tennessee annually of the impacted properties and the terms of the license agreements put in place with landowners. The extent of groundwater issues begs for more than just an update on how the selected remedies at ETP are going.

Emergency Management

DOE in Oak Ridge should maintain the highest level of public awareness of what to do in case of an emergency at any of its facilities that would require the public to take protective actions. Several commercially licensed nuclear facilities are planned or under construction within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Depending on their final safety analyses, these new facilities may have their own EPZs beyond their property boundary. There should be more meetings and distribution of materials to inform the public of what to do in case of an emergency. The figure below shows the 2-mile and 5-mile areas that require pre-planned protective actions due to an emergency on the Oak Ridge Reservation from DOE's current operations.



Nuclear Facilities Under DOE-ID Oversight

Standard Nuclear executed an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) with the DOE-ID to operate its advanced TRISO fuel production capabilities under direct DOE regulatory and safety oversight. Their plan is to leverage the significant environmental reviews, design bases, safety analyses, inspections, and verifications performed under DOE requirements to facilitate an efficient and well-aligned future NRC licensing process.⁸ It has been learned that they are following a set of revised regulations under the OTA contract with the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy – Idaho Operations Office.⁹ The location of these

⁷ <https://orrcatn.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/07232026-Remediation-Effectiveness-Report.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2605/ML26050A011.pdf>

⁹ <https://id.energy.gov/Home/NEDirectives>

facilities with their nuclear and chemical hazards essentially in the parking lot of an historic tourism destination should be concerning.

Nuclear Facilities Under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Oversight

OREM is a cooperating agency with NRC on the preparation of documentation evaluating the environmental impacts of issuing NRC licenses to facilities like Orano Project IKE. Kairos Power has encountered legacy DOE contamination. TDEC has reviewed soil and water management plans to address environmental media encountered during geotechnical and groundwater well drilling activities to assure these activities occur within quitclaim deed restrictions. Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance has engaged in activities regarding these facilities using its grant funds. All of these factors should be considered in placing boundaries on ORSSAB being a forum to learn about these new nuclear facilities.

Public Involvement Plan

A triennial update to the Public Involvement Plan for CERCLA Activities at the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Site occurred in FY 2025.¹⁰ ORSSAB should have reviewed the draft plan revision to identify areas where it can strengthen its role in facilitating communications with the public. Although the next update is scheduled in FY 2028, ORSSAB should remain cognizant of changes affecting public involvement opportunities in DOE activities generally. Local DOE officials who understand the value of public input should resist eliminating it to accelerate project timelines. Although for an NNSA project, a draft Environmental Assessment review period for public comment was not retained in the new DOE National Environmental Policy Act procedure applied to EA-2310, *East End Campus at the Y-12 National Security Complex; Oak Ridge, Tennessee*, and therefore a public review was not conducted.

Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER)

The ASER is prepared for DOE according to the requirements of DOE Order 231.1B, *Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting*. The ASER includes data on the environmental performance of each of the major contractors and describes significant accomplishments in pollution prevention and sustainability programs that reduce many types of waste and pollutant releases to the environment. DOE has published an annual environmental report with consolidated data on overall performance and status since the mid-1970s. The ASER is a key component of DOE's effort to keep the public informed about environmental conditions. Although OREM is responsible for only a portion of the activity reported, the report provides context for its activities alongside ongoing operations. Office of Science, OREM, local NNSA, and ORSSAB should jointly sponsor a public presentation associated with annual release of the report. The DOE Information Center maintains the historical ASER collection.¹¹

Remediation Effectiveness Report

First issued in 1997, the Remediation Effectiveness Report (RER) has been issued annually to update the performance of completed actions. Because most of the completed remedial actions and environmental media removal actions do not allow unlimited use/unrestricted exposure, these sites require performance monitoring and/or Land Use Controls to protect human health and the environment from physical hazards, residual contamination, and wastes remaining following remediation. Awareness of

¹⁰ <https://www.energy.gov/orem/articles/public-involvement-plan>

¹¹ <https://doeic.science.energy.gov/ASER/>

the contents of this report is essential to anyone who lives in the community or proposes or becomes involved in an activity on any of the sites. The D1 of the 2026 RER is available.¹²

Project IKE, Transfer of Self Sufficiency Parcel-2, and White Wing Scrap Yard

A draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) for White Wing Scrap Yard was issued in 2024, indicating initiation of previously unpublicized planning for the project, which had been deferred except for surveillance and maintenance after above ground removal actions were conducted in the 1990s. That RIWP was rescinded to conduct a Time Critical Removal Action to facilitate transfer of property to Orano to build the Project IKE uranium enrichment facility. The Action Memorandum has taken a long time. Seeming extraordinary actions have been taken to site the facility within known constraints, avoid the nearby subsurface contamination, and resolve uncertainty about eligibility of properties for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Through July 13, NRC accepted comments on the scope of an environmental impact statement to evaluate the environmental impacts of issuing a license to Orano Enrichment USA, LLC (Orano) to construct and operate a gaseous centrifuge uranium enrichment facility on the site. To the extent that OREM is a cooperating agency, it should independently provide and promote public involvement opportunities for this project.

Rarity Ridge Wastewater Treatment Facility

A recent compliance evaluation inspection report by TDEC Division of Water Resources says it all.¹³ “The sludge is wasted into an old clarifier turned storage tank prior to the digester where it sits until the digester is emptied by a truck to be sent for disposal in a low rad facility. After allowing K-25 to connect to the system years ago, there was an influx of radioactive material Technetium 99 (Tc-99) into the system that has been present in the sludge since. Due to the radioactive properties in the sludge, UCOR agreed to take the sludge for disposal at an appropriate location. A letter from the Knoxville Environmental Field Office approved this plan in March 2014. A letter from Leo Sain, UCOR President and Project Manager, stated this arrangement will continue until further notice in March 2014. Due to the warmer temperatures and increased biological activity the concentration of the sludge is going up due to a backlog of waiting for ultimate disposal by UCOR. The facility is also seeing an increase in other parameters that could be a result of this backlog as well. If the concentration is not reduced by the disposal of sludge, the facility could end up violating permit parameters.” DOE’s exit strategy from this problem needs to be better publicized.

Technology Development

Technology development activities are being conducted at the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory as well as by other technology development principal investigators. Even local commercial facilities are working on technologies to support DOE environmental and waste management problems. ORSSAB could provide a better forum than it has to provide input to technology development and ensure it is applicable.

¹² <https://doeic.science.energy.gov/uploads/A.0100.064.3002.pdf>

¹³

https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/dataviewers/apex_util.count_click?p_url=BGWPC.GET_WPC_DOCUMENTS?p_file=1821748105696051192&p_cat=DOCS&p_id=1821748105696051192&p_user=GUEST&p_workspace=19833722515258996

Transuranic Waste

This issue covers the path forward to disposition of TRU sludge stored in the Melton Valley Storage Tanks and more broadly continued assured access to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP) for disposal of Oak Ridge TRU waste. This includes any that could be impacted intentionally or non-intentionally by the definition for legacy TRU and TRU mixed wastes. ORSSAB should skeptically monitor public policy discussions and developments surrounding WIPP, New Mexico state regulation of WIPP, and that state's efforts to prioritize shipments. ORSSAB should not hesitate to issue comments and recommendations even when not specifically requested by DOE. Awareness of the content of the Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report as well as reaction to proposed modifications to WIPP's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit is essential.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

OREM should strive to disseminate information on this issue from a local as well as complex wide perspective. There seem to be many aspects to PFAS. These include identification of PFAS, whether stored material is PFAS, PFAS contamination of environmental media, health effects from exposure to PFAS, and implications of PFAS drinking water regulations on remediation goals in current and past cleanup projects. Perma-Fix Environmental is constructing a PFAS process treatment center at ETPP. Air permitting application materials provide technical details of their process.¹⁴

White Oak Creek Embayment

An Emergency Removal Action for the Sediment Retention Structure indicates a serious issue that was addressed but not as a permanent solution.¹⁵ White Oak Dam is a retention structure that holds back sediments contaminated with radionuclides, including cesium-137. The cities of Kingston, Spring City, and Rockwood draw drinking water from the Tennessee River system downstream. In the 2005-2006 timeframe, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) published a public health assessment.¹⁶ ATSDR concluded that past, current, and future exposures to radionuclides released from White Oak Creek to the Clinch River/Lower Watts Bar Reservoir are not a public health hazard. People who used or lived along the Clinch River or Lower Watts Bar Reservoir in the past, or who currently do so or will in the future, might have or might yet come in contact with X-10 radionuclides that entered the Clinch River or Lower Watts Bar Reservoir via White Oak Creek. However, ATSDR's evaluation of data and exposure situations for users of these waterways indicates that the levels of radionuclides in the sediment, surface water, and biota are—and have been in the past—too low to cause observable health effects. It was beyond the scope of that report, however, to evaluate a catastrophic release due to dam failure. The schedule and results of periodic inspections may be of interest to the public and ORSSAB.

National Priorities List Significance and Clarification

DOE, EPA, and TDEC recently confirmed that half of the acreage on the Oak Ridge Reservation included in the National Priorities List (NPL) was unimpacted by historic operations and needed no cleanup.¹⁷ Applicability of the partial deletion process prescribed in CERCLA regulations was unclear. DOE has since

¹⁴ https://dataviewers.tdec.tn.gov/dataviewers/f?p=19031:34031:::34031:P34031_SITE_ID:182449

¹⁵ <https://orrcatn.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/01212026-Emergency-Removal-Action.pdf>

¹⁶ https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/OakRidge0806-TN/whiteoakcreek/woc_p1.html

¹⁷ <https://www.energy.gov/em/articles/half-oak-ridges-federal-acreage-deemed-suitable-reuse>

petitioned EPA to partially delete Zone 1 soils at the East Tennessee Technology Park on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation Superfund Site, located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. That petition is pending a mutual understanding and agreement on implementation of Land Use Controls. Also, TDEC commented on a draft of the 2026 Remediation Effectiveness Report that the Oak Ridge NPL boundary differed significantly from the boundary depicted in the 2025 RER and sought clarification. If the regulators need clarification, the public should too and this can be addressed to or by the ORSSAB.

K-1007-P1 Holding Pond

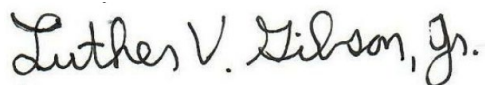
To support construction of the Oak Ridge General Aviation Airport that was proposed to be located within the southeastern section of ETPP, the original remedy of ecological enhancement was identified to be replaced with the pond fill-in alternative in a November 2022 updated action memorandum.¹⁸ That may still be the decision of record that could be implemented with no further notice. Some stakeholders have indicated a preference for the pond to remain as an aesthetic visual resource. The action memorandum may need to be rescinded or updated.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports Critical of DOE Management

In February 2026, GAO said, “NNSA’s Portfolio of Major Projects in the Execution Phase Continues to Face Cost Overruns and Schedule Delays.”¹⁹ In March 2026, GAO said, “DOE Needs to Improve the Accuracy of Cost and Schedule Information for Major Projects and Activities.”²⁰ In May 2026, GAO said, “DOE Shortages in Mission-Critical Positions Have Continued to Increase.”²¹ In July 2026, GAO said, “Changes Needed to Ensure DOE Is Not Prematurely Excluding Less Expensive Options for Large Projects.”²² In July 2026, GAO also said, “DOE Needs to Better Use End State Contracts to Achieve Intended Results.”²³ Also, in July 2026, GAO said, “DOE Is Missing Opportunities to Apply Lessons from Other Countries That Could Reduce Risks and Costs.”²⁴ Such reports should be reviewed for what was found for Oak Ridge projects. The Uranium Processing Facility, Mercury Treatment Facility, and Environmental Management Disposal Facility have been reviewed in these reports.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Luther V. Gibson, Jr.



¹⁸ <https://doeic.science.energy.gov/uploads/E.0520.025.0370.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-107777>

²⁰ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-107820>

²¹ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-108674>

²² <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-108193>

²³ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-107745>

²⁴ <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-108082>

About the Author

Luther Gibson served on the ORSSAB and its Executive Committee from 1999-2005. He served as ORSSAB Chair from August 2000 until August 2002, during which 36 recommendations and comments were delivered to agency officials. During his tenure on ORSSAB, he also served on an Environmental Management Advisory Board Alternative Technologies to Incineration Committee. He authored a report that the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management directed local EM managers to consider in making technology selection decisions. He retired from Consolidated Nuclear Security Y-12 in 2017 after a 40-year career with DOE Oak Ridge prime contractors at Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, K-25, and Y-12. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kentucky. He worked in the areas of environmental technology development, operations research, environmental compliance, nuclear facility safety, and emergency management technical basis. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Air & Waste Management Association. He was recognized in the 1997 International Who's Who of Professionals. He is currently a Vice President of the Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees (CORRE). He chairs CORRE's Planning Committee and its Pension Fund Analysis Committee. He is also a member of CORRE's Other DOE Sites Committee and Contractor Contact Team with Consolidated Nuclear Security (Y-12).