Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved October 14, 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, October 14, 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.

Members Present

Kris Bartholomew
Laure Clark
Harold Conner, Jr.
Paul Dill
Lauren LaLuzerne
Kenneth Lewis
Harriett McCurdy
Otto Merz
Charles Moore
Melanie Rogers
Tonya Shannon
Kelli Thompson
Matt Van Dalen

Members Absent

Brandon Adcock
Mary Butler
Rosario Gonzalez
Thomas McCormick
Michael Sharpe
Tom Tuck

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM
Roger Petrie, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Mike Griswold, OREM
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Jana Dawson, EPA
Leah Alexander, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM
Abby Hill, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, OREM

Others Present

Brian Begley, EPA
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Staff
Eileen Marcillo, TDEC
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Staff
Steve Sanders, TDEC
Sarah Springer, UCOR
Ella Stewart, UCOR
Ethan Sweet, TDEC

Marjorie Thomas, EPA

8 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Petrie – Mr. Petrie gave members the following updates on OREM activities since the last board meeting:

- **National Cleanup Workshop:** The September 14–16 workshop in Washington, D.C., highlighted Oak Ridge cleanup accomplishments and progress in reindustrialization. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann was a keynote speaker. Oak Ridge, Portsmouth, and Paducah were recognized as leaders in reindustrialization.

- **SPRU Consent Order:** DOE and the State of Tennessee signed a consent order allowing transuranic (TRU) waste from the Separations Process Research Unit (SPRU) in New York to be transported to Oak Ridge for treatment and preparation for final disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

- **East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Property Transfer:** An additional 50 acres at ETTP are being transferred to Radiant Corporation to support future microreactor manufacturing. Final registration with the city remains pending.

- **Y-12 Demolition:** Demolition began on Building 9401-1, the original steam plant. Completion is anticipated within approximately one year.

- **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Isotope Row:** Demolition began on historic, contaminated isotope production buildings. Completion was anticipated by the end of October.

Mr. Czartoryski – Mr. Czartoryski reported that the annual Site Treatment Plan update was expected by the end of October and would incorporate milestones established in the SPRU Consent Order.

Ms. Dawson – Ms. Dawson introduced EPA representatives Brian Begley and Marjorie Thomas. Mr. Begley reinforced the positive reception of Oak Ridge's reindustrialization work at the National Cleanup Workshop, noting considerable interest from other DOE sites. Ms. Thomas introduced herself as EPA's Oak Ridge community involvement coordinator, a role she has held for approximately one year.

Presentation

Mr. Bartholomew introduced OREM’s Mike Griswold to discuss the Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC).

Mr. Griswold gave members an overview of TWPC operations, current improvements, and potential future activities.

He told members TWPC is located on approximately 25 acres in the Melton Valley area of the Oak Ridge Reservation. The processing building encompasses approximately 38,000 square feet, with additional support and storage facilities. Constructed in 2003, TWPC processes, packages, and prepares

TRU waste for certification and shipment to WIPP in New Mexico. Certification is performed through the Central Characterization Program.

Mr. Griswold then described four primary processing areas:

- **Hot Cell:** Remote handling, sorting, segregation, and size reduction of higher-radiation waste.
- **Cask Processing Enclosure:** Handling and processing large waste containers and materials.
- **Contact-Handled Gloveboxes:** Processing waste drums, including recently added oxide-container venting capabilities.
- **Box Breakdown Area:** Specialized processing activities conducted by workers in protective suits.

He said current priorities and improvements include upgrading the real-time radiography system from 350 kiloelectron volts to 6 megaelectron volts to improve waste characterization and potentially reduce unnecessary processing; installing a mobile, in-situ large-container counting system for nondestructive waste assessment; completing processing of Nuclear Fuel Services TRU waste; recording completion of 59 cubic meters of difficult waste identified in the Site Treatment Plan, supporting SPRU waste processing and potential additional DOE-complex waste activities; and continuing life-extension improvements, including fire suppression upgrades and hot-cell equipment replacement.

He added that there are ongoing discussions with Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and other DOE sites regarding potential centralized TRU waste processing. He also described the use of shielded container assemblies (SCAs) to facilitate renewed shipments of remote-handled waste to WIPP.

<u>Board members asked the following questions:</u>

- Ms. Thompson asked to confirm there was a fire at WIPP in 2014.
    - Mr. Griswold confirmed WIPP experienced a fire in 2014 and underwent an extended recovery period.
- Ms. McCurdy asked whether WIPP is operational again following the fire.
    - Mr. Griswold said WIPP had resumed accepting contact-handled waste. Remote-handled waste shipments were the principal challenge, requiring a different container system.
- Mr. Conner asked if there are discussions with Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Savannah River about bringing their TRU waste to Oak Ridge for processing.
    - Mr. Griswold said DOE headquarters is conducting high-level discussions about how to manage TRU waste across the DOE complex. He said discussions are preliminary, and no concrete arrangements have been established.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how many workers are employed at TWPC.
    - Mr. Griswold said there are approximately 200 workers, including processing personnel and support staff. He also noted that the facility's workforce had recently unionized.
- Ms. McCurdy asked how waste drums are identified and tracked.
    - Mr. Griswold said drums are tracked through an established numbering system that includes barcodes for scanning and individual identification numbers.
- Mr. Czartoryski asked if TWPC has a sufficient allocation of shielded container assemblies (SCAs).

  - Mr. Griswold said TWPC recently received additional units. Although demand across DOE sites is high and more units would be beneficial, TWPC is not experiencing a critical shortage.
- Mr. Lewis asked whether waste removed or processed through the gloveboxes will eventually be buried.
  - Mr. Griswold said TRU waste shipped to WIPP is disposed of underground in a salt formation. Mr. Petrie said that WIPP is a deep geological repository approximately 2,500 feet underground. Waste containers are placed in excavated galleries, where the natural movement of salt eventually entombs them.

Public Questions

- Mr. Luther Gibson asked whether bringing waste to Oak Ridge for characterization and extending TWPC's operational life fulfills, at least partially, the 2003 SSAB recommendation to establish centralized TRU waste characterization capabilities.

  - Mr. Petrie said it does.

Public Comment

- Public Comment #1 – Mr. Luther Gibson gave the following public comment:

  I'm going to the back four pages of the advance meeting materials. The background there was there was a company, Standard Nuclear, that executed another transaction agreement, transitioning key operational elements of the TRISO Fuel manufacturing to full DOE oversight, ensuring compliance with Federal codes, DOE orders, and technical standards. And I had to go to DOE Idaho to seek information, which should be of general public interest regarding implementation of environmental nuclear facility safety and emergency preparedness requirements. After more than three months, I got a response that basically thanked me for my interest and attempted to reassure me they got all covered. Chemical accidents in nuclear facilities could have a higher probability and higher consequences than radiological accidents. Then right up to the last four pages of meeting materials discusses and analyzes a potential chemical accidents aerial and provides historical examples indicating that such an event should be considered in emergency planning. Basically, it shows the release that could be caused by catastrophic equipment failure, could have lethal consequences at the K-25 History Center, and impair the ability to escape over 900 yards down wind. And I'll bring that material in case you're interested further.

- Public Comment #2 – Mr. Gibson gave the following additional public comment:

  What I was trying to do in the first segment was one of the questions about it has to do with the characterization for shipment versus characterization for disposal at WIPP, and at other venues, questions come up, “You know, why can you just ship it to WIPP?” you know, because the characterization at WIPP is much more rigorous. But then it I mean, it is natural question, though. Ship something from Livermore, you know, here versus how far it would need to go to New Mexico.

- Ms. Kimel read the following public comment submitted by Mr. Brandon Burley, a reporter with The Redemption Project, via email ahead of the meeting:

  The May 2026 budget materials state that Outfall 200 was placed on pause, while options to accomplish the objective in other ways were evaluated. DOE's public Y-12 web page continues to state the facility is under construction, with completion anticipated in 2027. DOE's Office of Project Management dashboards also rate the project, read, while continuing to display the $224 million budget. What is the facility's current construction status, approved or forecast, total project cost and completion date, as well as current enforceable federal facility agreement milestone? If the pause has ended or an alternative path has been selected, when was that decision made, and where is it documented?

Board Business/Motions

- Mr. Bartholomew opened discussion on the draft budget recommendation, which had been reviewed at previous meetings. No additional questions or concerns were raised. Mr. Bartholomew asked to approve the recommendation as written.
  - **10.14.26.1** Motion made by Ms. McCurdy and seconded by Mr. Moore. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Petrie presented the following slate of officer candidates for FY 2027: Chair, Kris Bartholomew; Vice Chair, Charles Moore; Secretary, Kelli Thompson. No additional nominations were received.
  - Under the stated procedure, the uncontested slate was accepted without a formal vote. All three officers were selected.

Responses to Recommendations & DDFO Report

Mr. Petrie and Ms. Kimel reviewed the FY 27 work plan and asked each board member to participate in at least one issue group. DOE is requiring two formal recommendations for FY 27: a waste disposal recommendation and a budget recommendation. Other recommendations may be developed at the board's discretion.

Committee Reports

Executive – Mr. Bartholomew said the committee discussed changes to public comment procedures. Approval of new board members remains pending. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for November 4.

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Merz said the committee completed work on the budget recommendation and forwarded it for the board's approval. The next committee meeting is scheduled for October 28.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Mr. Conner described the removal of Isotope Row at ORNL as a significant historical accomplishment and asked about future isotope production. Mr. Petrie explained that isotope production would continue

in newer ORNL facilities equipped with substantial hot-cell capacity.

Action Items
None

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the October 14, 2026, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Kris Bartholomew, Chair



Kelli Thompson, Secretary

November 9, 2026

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

KB/sbm

Public Comment to Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Luther Gibson
October 14, 2026

Standard Nuclear executed an Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) with the U.S. Department of Energy that transitioned key operational elements to full DOE oversight. This enhanced oversight enables a substantial increase in the company's TRISO fuel manufacturing throughput within its existing facilities. The OTA is administered contractually by the DOE Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID). Upon inquiry how DOE requirements for nuclear facility safety and emergency management could be implemented at East Tennessee Technology Park in its transitioning status, DOE-ID Office of Public Affairs provided the following in an email dated September 2:

> Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding Standard Nuclear's proposed project in Tennessee. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Standard Nuclear take protection of the public and the environment seriously and are working with the applicable agencies to ensure potential chemical and radiological hazardous events remain below DOE evaluation guidelines to ensure adequate protection to workers, public, and environment.
>
> Standard Nuclear's facilities are expected to meet DOE Policy 420.3, Nuclear Safety Policy for Offsite Nuclear Facilities Authorized by the Office of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Energy (NE) Order (O) 151.1, Comprehensive Emergency Management System. These regulations provide the basis for evaluating these hazards and establishing pre-planned protective actions. Standard Nuclear is required to develop a comprehensive emergency management program that works with local, state, and federal agencies to adequately respond to and mitigate the consequences of postulated release scenarios. If applicable, Standard Nuclear will also be required to meet the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.
>
> With respect to your specific mention of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Radionuclides (40 CFR Part 61, Subpart H), Standard Nuclear addresses applicable radiological protection requirements through programs established in accordance with NE 0 458.1, Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment. While the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) was included as part of the Oak Ridge Reservation for purposes of compliance with 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart H, when the property was under DOE control, much of ETTP has since been transferred or repurposed for commercial development by private entities.
>
> Accordingly, Standard Nuclear's privately Operated facilities are not necessarily included within the collective DOE Oak Ridge Reservation compliance boundary. Standard Nuclear's Tennessee operations remain subject to applicable federal, state, and local environmental compliance requirements, including those administered by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Standard Nuclear is evaluating the environmental requirements applicable to its proposed activities and will continue to coordinate with the relevant regulatory agencies to obtain, maintain, and comply with any required permits, approvals, monitoring, reporting, and operational controls before and during operations.
>
> The Department of Energy and Standard Nuclear appreciates your interest in the proposed project and has considered the concerns raised in your correspondence. Both DOE and Standard Nuclear remain committed to compliance with applicable federal, State, and local requirements and to the protection of the public and the environment.

Based on the lack of substance in DOE-ID's response, I have decided to publish my consequence assessment of a postulated chemical release from Standard Nuclear's TRISO fuel production process. This consequence assessment has not been shared previously with DOE.

Methyltrichlorosilane (MTS) is a key precursor in thin-film deposition via chemical vapor deposition processes for silicon carbide. It is highly flammable and reacts with water to form hydrogen chloride. Standard Nuclear and TRISO-X fuel production processes use MTS.

In 1994, in France, water was poured into a drum containing 30 liters of MTS during cleaning operations in a workshop at an industrial establishment.[1] A cloud of hydrochloric acid formed, requiring the hospitalization of 19 people. A severely affected employee, as well as an adult and three children passing near the company, remained under medical supervision as a precaution. A mobile chemical response unit monitored the chemical reaction (hydrolysis) initiated in the drums.

In Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii, on May 27, 2006, a release occurred at Trex Enterprises in the Lihue Industrial Park Phase II.[2] 600 pounds of MTS were released while transfer of the substance from storage tank to process tank was being made. As a result, the industrial park was evacuated. The MTS was contained, neutralized and disposed of. The facility remained closed and planned to upgrade their system in the near future. Responder resources would have been overwhelmed if another incident had occurred at the same time.

On May 31, 2001, a maintenance mechanic working on a furnace used in a process involving MTS at a Goodrich facility in California suffered first and second degree burns from a reaction involving pyrophoric byproducts deposited in exhaust plumbing.[3]

Although the quantity of material at risk is unknown for Standard Nuclear, an assumed 150-pound instantaneous release of MTS was modeled by Version 5.4.7 of the ALOHA "Areal Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres" software tool used by the EPA for chemical emergency response.
The following input and output are associated with the model run:

SITE DATA:
Location: KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Building Air Exchanges Per Hour: 0.41 (unsheltered single storied)
Time: September 6, 2026, 1723 hours EDT (using computer's clock)

CHEMICAL DATA:
Warning: METHYLTRICHLOROSILANE can react with water and/or water vapor to produce hydrogen chloride and heat. ALOHA cannot accurately predict the air hazard if a reaction occurs.
Chemical Name: METHYLTRICHLOROSILANE

[1] https://www.aria.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/accident/5460_en/?lang=en

[2] https://health-dev.hawaii.gov/heer/files/2019/11/HSERC064.pdf

[3] https://www.osha.gov/ords/imis/establishment.inspection_detail?id=126107002

CAS Number: 75-79-6 Molecular Weight: 149.48 g/mol
AEGL-1 (60 min): 0.6 ppm AEGL-2 (60 min): 7.3 ppm AEGL-3 (60 min): 33 ppm
LEL: 51000 ppm UEL: 119000 ppm
Ambient Boiling Point: 149.9° F
Vapor Pressure at Ambient Temperature: 0.22 atm
Ambient Saturation Concentration: 224,230 ppm or 22.4%

ATMOSPHERIC DATA: (MANUAL INPUT OF DATA)
Wind: 3 meters/second from SSW at 10 meters
Ground Roughness: urban or forest
Cloud Cover: 5 tenths
Air Temperature: 75° F Stability Class: C
No Inversion Height Relative Humidity: 50%

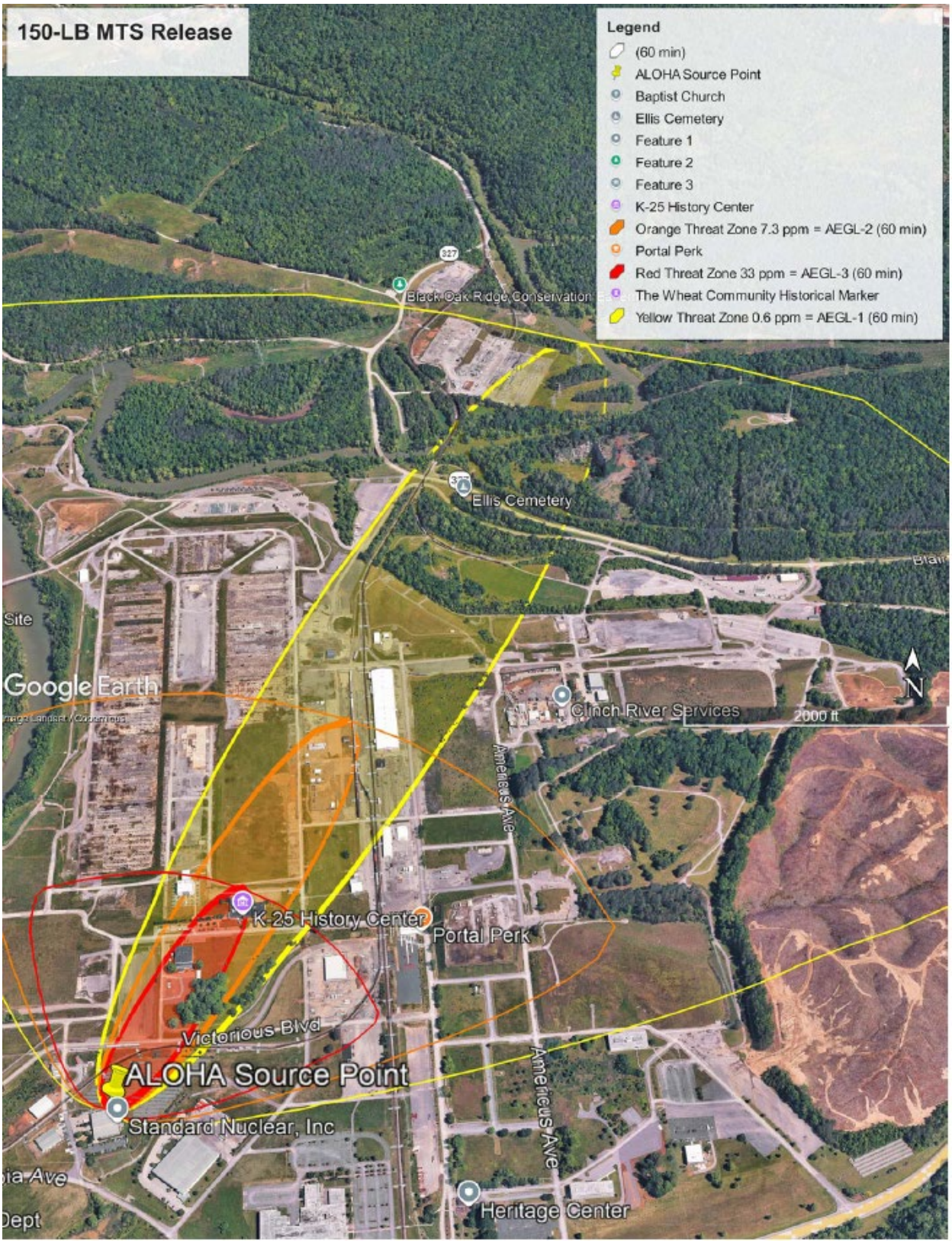
SOURCE STRENGTH:
Direct Source: 150 pounds Source Height: 0
Release Duration: 1 minute
Release Rate: 2.5 pounds/sec
Total Amount Released: 150 pounds

THREAT ZONE:
Model Run: Heavy Gas
Red: 471 yards --- (33 ppm = AEGL-3 [60 min])
Orange: 919 yards --- (7.3 ppm = AEGL-2 [60 min])
Yellow: 1.3 miles --- (0.6 ppm = AEGL-1 [60 min])

AEGL-1: Notable discomfort, irritation, or certain asymptomatic non-sensory effects. However, the effects are not disabling and are transient and reversible upon cessation of exposure.

AEGL-2
Irreversible or other serious, long-lasting adverse health effects or an impaired ability to escape.

AEGL-3: Life-threatening health effects or death.


150-LB MTS Release
Legend
(60 min)
ALOHA Source Point
Baptist Church
Ellis Cemetery
Feature 1
Feature 2
Feature 3
K-25 History Center
Orange Threat Zone 7.3 ppm = AEGL-2 (60 min)
Portal Perk
Red Threat Zone 33 ppm = AEGL-3 (60 min)
The Wheat Community Historical Marker
Yellow Threat Zone 0.6 ppm = AEGL-1 (60 min)
Black Oak Ridge Conservation
Ellis Cemetery
Site
Google Earth
Clinch River Services
2000 ft
N
Americus Ave
K-25 History Center
Portal Perk
Victorious Blvd
ALOHA Source Point
Standard Nuclear, Inc
Americus Ave
Heritage Center

From: Brandon Burley
To: ORSSAB
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Virtual access request and written public comment — Oct. 14 ORSSAB meeting
Date: Monday, October 12, 2026 9:57:18 AM

Hello,

Please register me for virtual access to the October 14, 2026 ORSSAB meeting.

I am a reporter with The Redemption Project. I also would like the following written comment/question included in the meeting record:

DOE's May 2026 Oak Ridge budget materials state that the Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility was placed on pause while options to accomplish the objective in other ways were evaluated. DOE's public Y-12 webpage continues to state that the facility is under construction with completion anticipated in 2027. DOE's Office of Project Management dashboards have also rated project 14-D-403 Red while continuing to display the $224 million project budget.

What is the facility's current construction status, current approved or forecast total project cost and completion date, and current enforceable Federal Facility Agreement milestone? If the pause has ended or an alternative path has been selected, when was that decision made and where is it documented?

Thank you,

Brandon Burley
Founder & Editor
The Redemption Project
brandon@theredemptionproject.news

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Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

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