

ORSSAB Holds Its Most Efficient and Successful Annual Planning Meeting

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its annual planning meeting on Saturday, August 17 at the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Develop an increased understanding of and commitment to the goals of the board.
- Evaluate the effectiveness and achievements of the board in FY 2013.
- Begin development of the FY 2014 work plan.

Acting board chair Dave Hemelright opened the meeting by thanking members and liaisons for taking their time to participate. The meeting was facilitated by Jenny Freeman. environmental management mission on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

"DOE looks to the board for advice and recommendations on basic questions regarding cleanup," he said, "what areas of the reservation should be set aside for waste disposal and how those areas should be protected in the future.

"The mission of the DOE Environmental Management (EM) Program is to complete the cleanup of the ORR while protecting human health and the environment of the area and making clean land available for future use," said Adler. That mission includes ensuring DOE's ongoing missions at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

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contractors; and protecting ongoing DOE missions that represent billions of dollars.

Adler concluded by making the following points of ORSSAB's role as it relates to DOE:

- Maintain awareness of key program focus areas.
- Provide recommendations on high-level programmatic decisions

DOE's Dave Adler leads the discussion on topics that DOE, EPA, and TDEC suggested the board focus its attention on in FY 2014 during the board's annual meeting in August.

ORSSAB As It Relates to DOE

The board's Department of Energy (DOE) Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer Dave Adler was the first presenter on the agenda. He reviewed for board members what DOE expects from ORSSAB in relation to DOE's Significant progress has been made on the ORR since cleanup work began in 1995, but Adler said the EM Program faces a number of challenges including a recent trend of declining annual funding; many diverse, complex projects; many regulatory commitments; coordinating numerous and project implementation.

- Solicit input from the broader regional stakeholder community.
- Participate in national dialogues concerning the DOE EM program.

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ORSSAB Annual Meeting

Mission Statement and Board Accomplishments

Hemelright reviewed the board's mission statement and accomplishments for FY 2013. Accomplishments included recommendations on disposition of legacy waste and long-term stewardship. The board's Public Outreach Committee oversaw issuance of several news releases, the publication of the quarterly Advocate newsletter, the board's annual report, and the distribution of videos of board meetings to local cable outlets.

Board operations

Prior to the meeting, Freeman asked board members to provide input on board operations. She compiled a number of comments that fit into two general themes:

- Theme 1 Interest in creating more participation from board members in board activities.
- Theme 2 Interest in helping the public accept the success of cleanup.

(Continued from page 1)

Both topics generated considerable discussion among board members. Greg Paulus said there is a diversity of members' backgrounds and knowledge, and he encouraged all members to be active in the board's work. Scott Stout agreed and said newer members should listen and learn the issues, but 'shouldn't remain silent too long; speak up and become engaged in discussions.'

Adler said DOE tries to appoint people to the board who have a wide range of interests. He said DOE wants board members to attend meetings and participate to the extent they can. He said DOE realizes they volunteer their time and whatever they can contribute is much appreciated.

Regarding the second theme, board member Bob Hatcher said there needs to be a continuing process of educating the public about the problems associated with cleanup of the ORR, what is being done, what has been completed, and what remains. Hemelright reminded the board that DOE has a public relations office and the board should work with that office about educating the public.

Work Plan Topics

Prior to the meeting, DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) submitted suggestions for issues the board to consider in FY 2014. See the accompanying article for a more detailed description.

Wrap Up

In closing the meeting, Federal Coordinator Melyssa Noe asked the board members to comment on the shortened format for the annual meeting. This year's meeting was shortened from a full day to a half day.

Facilitator Freeman was pleased with meeting. "We accomplished our goals, provided a space in which people could get to know each other, and decided on potential work topics for 2014," she said. "Most importantly, the work was conducted smoothly with a lot of participation from board members."

Agencies Submit Suggestions for ORSSAB to Focus on in FY 2014

One of the primary reasons for ORSSAB's annual meeting is to hear what the three agencies involved in ORR cleanup would like for the board to focus on in the next fiscal year.

DOE's, EPA's, and TDEC's suggestions were quite similar this year. They all suggested three common topics:

- Sufficient waste disposal capacity for the ORR.
- Groundwater strategy for the ORR.
- Strategy for addressing mercury at Y-12.

DOE and EPA suggested an additional topic of providing input on the completion of the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) Zone 1 Record of Decision for soils. Zone 1 is an area of about 1,400 acres that surrounds the main industrial complex (Zone 2) at ETTP. DOE also requested input on its FY 2016 EM budget request to DOE Headquarters.

Sufficient Waste Disposal

Sufficient waste disposal refers to a proposed second facility, the EM Disposal Facility. EPA said a number of issues need to be resolved including location, operations and monitoring, treatment technologies, size reduction, waste water discharges, and lessons learned from building and operating the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) in Bear Creek Valley.

A number of lessons learned from construction and operation of EM-WMF were included in the remedial investigation/feasibility study for construction of a second disposal facility. Some of the lessons learned included:

- The availability of contaminated fill material for void spaces was overestimated. Design of a new site should take into account the use of clean fill.
- While underdrains are useful in managing groundwater, they should be designed in advance of operations. An underdrain was installed at EMWMF after operations began.
- The EMWMF storm water event planning was based on a 25-year, 24-hour storm event. The new design should consider multiple back-to-back events.

EPA said ORSSAB's input regarding these issues would be helpful.

Advecate

Reservation Update

DOE and Nevada Try to Work Out U-233 Disagreement

The Uranium-233 Project Team in Oak Ridge is working with DOE Headquarters evaluating impacts concerning next steps regarding the State of Nevada's opposition to having Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project material shipped to the state for disposal at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, U.S. Senator Harry Reid, and Rep. Dina Titus all oppose the shipment of the U-233 from Oak Ridge to their state.

While DOE considers the material low-level waste, which can be disposed at NNSS, the Nevada leaders argue that the material has the potential for being used in a so called 'dirty bomb' if it fell into the wrong hands.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz has been working with Nevada officials to resolve the dispute. DOE Oak Ridge Manager for EM Mark Whitney met with some of Gov. Sandoval's cabinet in August as well. Bill McMillan, ORNL Portfolio Federal Project Director, said the visit went well, but it will probably take several months to work out all the issues. protection system, but it was drained, disconnected, and permanently taken out of service on July 15. The site now relies on pumping stations to provide pressure for its fire water system. DOE will eventually transfer the system to the city of Oak Ridge.

The demolition, part of the cleanup underway at ETTP, was conducted by UCOR, DOE's prime cleanup contractor in Oak Ridge, and Veterans Contracting Services Group and Controlled Demolition, Inc.

DOE Prepares to Recompete

TRU Waste Processing Center Contract

DOE plans to recompete the contract to manage the Transuranic Waste Processing Center.

The facility is currently managed by Wastren Advantage, Inc.

DOE has issued a "sources sought notice" to determine if there are small businesses capable of performing the work.

DOE is proposing to use a small business-size standard of \$35.5 million for the new contract that will cover operating the Oak Ridge facility and to continue with development of decision documents for a sludge processing facility.

Landmark Water Tower Tumbles Down at ETTP

The red and white checkered water tower that stood watch over ETTP for more than 50 years towers no more.

The legs of the 382-foot tall structure, reported to be tallest water tower in North America, were blown out from under it in a controlled demolition at precisely 1 p.m. on Saturday August 3.

The K-1206 F Fire Water Tower operated as part of the site's fire



Going, going, going, gone! The iconic water tower at ETTP comes tumbling down after a controlled demolition in August.

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The center treats legacy transuranic waste that has been in storage for many years at ORNL.

New Technology Lights Up Contamination Hot Spots

ORNL researchers have developed a new technology to detect contamination that could replace current expensive and time-consuming survey methods.

The process involves spraying phosphur on a surface and if it lights up, it's contaminated.

The DOE Office of Deactivation & Decommissioning and Facilities Engineering challenged researchers to find a better way to determine the extent of levels of low-energy beta emitting isotopes, such as technetium-99. Tech-99 is in the last remaining sections of the K-25 Building at ETTP.

The water-based spray is commercially available and can be removed without impeding decontamination.

While it may take hours using field survey instruments to assess an area, the spray technique yields results in minutes.

Groundwater Workshops Completed; Report Submitted

DOE, EPA, and TDEC have completed the series of groundwater strategy workshops that worked on possible solutions to contaminated groundwater on or adjacent to the ORR.

A strategy document has been written by DOE and submitted to EPA and TDEC for review.

ORSSAB is scheduled to receive a briefing on the workshops and the strategy document at its October 9 meeting from Dan Goode, U.S. Geological Survey, who acted as liaison to the board during the workshops.



Recent Recommendations

Complete text of the following recommendations can be found on the ORSSAB website at <u>www.oakridge.doe.</u> <u>gov/em/ssab/recc.htm</u>

Recommendation to Develop a Fact Sheet on Site Transition at On-going Mission Sites

In June 2011, ORSSAB recommended to the DOE Assistant Secretary for EM that DOE develop a fact sheet similar to one used by the Office of Legacy Management (LM) that describes a site transition process upon completion of cleanup at remediated DOE sites.

The recommendation included a number of points suggested to be part of the fact sheet that would be applicable for a site transition process at on-going mission sites, such as Oak Ridge.

DOE accepted the recommendation and developed a document called "Site Transition: Cleanup Completion to Long-term Stewardship at DOE Ongoing Mission Sites (September 2011). ORSSAB's Stewardship Committee provided comments on the document both by mail and via teleconference. In February 2012, DOE issued another document that reflected input provided by ORSSAB and other site specific advisory boards.

The Stewardship Committee reviewed the revised document and concluded that, while the revision is useful and provides much good information related to turning remediated areas back to original landlords when DOE's EM work is completed at an on-going mission site, it still believes that the format used in the LM fact sheet is more user-friendly and better suited for public use.

The recommendation re-states ORSSAB's request to develop a fact sheet based on the LM fact sheet.

Recommendation on a Stewardship Point of Contact for the Oak Ridge Reservation

While all the standing ORSSAB committees have DOE Oak Ridge

liaisons, the Stewardship Committee believed it was important that DOE Oak Ridge EM have a dedicated point of contact for stewardship that the committee and board can go to for stewardship-related issues on the ORR.

In February, Dave Adler, ORSSAB's Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer, attended the Stewardship Committee meeting and addressed a number of issues that were of concern to the committee, including a permanent point of contact.

Adler agreed to be the point of contact, but the committee recognized that changes occur over time such as reorganizations, personnel changes, and re-assignments. The committee drafted a recommendation, which the board approved, that there will always be a permanent point of contact for the board for stewardship issues.

DOE accepted the recommendation saying that the DOE liaison to the recently merged EM & Stewardship Committee will be the permanent point of contact for stewardship issues on the ORR. Adler is currently the liaison to the committee.

Historic Preservation Efforts Continue for K-25 Building at ETTP

Work continues toward historic interpretation of the K-25 Building at ETTP. Although K-25 will be completely demolished soon, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was issued in November 2012 outlining a number of steps that will be taken to commemorate the history of the first full-scale gaseous diffusion plant built to enrich uranium.

One of the first steps is the selection of a site design team to plan the major interpretive elements, including an Equipment Building, which will be a replica of a portion of K-25, a history center that will be housed on the second floor of the fire station at ETTP, a viewing tower, and wayside exhibits around the site.

Nine firms have been pre-qualified as candidates for the job and proposals have been submitted. A contract is expected to be awarded for the job in early October, according to Karen Doughty, the project's historic preservation coordinator. The procurement of a museum professional who will design exhibits for the Equipment Building, history center, viewing tower, and wayside exhibits is also expected at the same time as the selection of the design team. All nine prospective firms include museum professionals who meet the requirements of the MOA.

Another stipulation of the MOA is a grant by DOE to purchase and stabilize the Alexander Inn near Jackson Square in Oak Ridge. In August 2012 DOE provided \$500,000 to Knox Heritage, an agent for the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance, which in turn bought the rapidly deteriorating structure from a private owner. In May 2013 Family Pride Corporation bought the inn from the alliance and will adapt it for use as an assisted living facility.

Stabilization is underway to prevent additional deterioration. The DOE grant was predicated on the condition that a historic preservation easement will maintain the building's historic features. The inn was known as the Guest House during the Manhattan Project where project notables stayed while in Oak Ridge.

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EPA Community Involvement Conference Offers New Ideas in Outreach

"The Next Generation of Community Involvement" was the theme of EPA's three-day training conference, held July 30–August 1 at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in Boston. ORSSAB member Corkie Staley and staff member Pete Osborne attended.

The conference was geared toward informing and training EPA staff as well as agency stakeholders and partners in best practices to enhance community involvement. It offered next generation technology as well, with opportunities to participate for those not able to attend in person via on-line streaming and an interactive training conference website, which allowed individuals to join in discussions and engage with conference presenters and other remote participants.

The conference featured plenary sessions with guest speakers, topical discussions, multiple 90-minute information sessions, three- to sevenhour training sessions, and field trips demonstrating effective community involvement and cooperative conservation efforts in the Boston area.

In keeping with the 'next generation' theme, several of the sessions focused on new media, such as sessions on "Social Media: Is It Right for Your Community," "How Mobile Apps Can Encourage Community Involvement," and "Revolutions Begin with a Spark: Guerilla Marketing and Memes." Others were geared toward more traditional outreach methods, such as "Getting Community Engagement Tools in the Hands of Practitioners," "The Art of Community Engagement and Involvement," and "The Moment of Oh! When People Are Ready to Make Decisions."

An evening reception highlighted a poster presentation and technology demonstration session to showcase community involvement projects as well as new tools, technologies, and software.

Throughout the training conference there were exhibits, a variety of

Agencies' Suggestions for FY 2014 (Continued from page 2)

TDEC said ORSSAB's consideration would help public awareness of the issues related to disposition of hazardous and radioactive waste.

Comprehensive Groundwater Strategy

All three agencies participated in a series of workshops to address the issue of contaminated groundwater and its potential for offsite migration away from the ORR.

A strategy document has been developed that the agencies have agreed upon to address groundwater problems. DOE asked ORSSAB to offer comments on the strategy. EPA and TDEC said ORSSAB would be helpful in finalizing a strategy and helping the public understand the issues and possible remedies.

Mercury Strategy at Y-12

During the 1950s and '60s hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury were lost to the soil and surface waters at Y-12 through operations at the plant.

While mercury releases to Upper East Fork Poplar Creek have been significantly reduced over the years, levels of mercury in fish continue to exceed acceptable levels.

A strategy has been developed, currently under review by EPA and TDEC, which calls for construction of a water treatment plant and plans for eliminating mercury at its source areas.

The agencies asked ORSSAB to review and comment on the document. networking opportunities, and evening activities that added value and fun to the experience.

The conference was exceptionally well organized, and the conference materials were outstanding. Overall, the conference provided a truly valuable opportunity to learn from a variety of professionals about new public involvement practices. Conference materials are available at http://www.epa.gov/ciconference/ index.htm.

Snapshot in History

October 1942

The four processes under consideration for producing fissionable material are evaluated for the feasibility of producing a bomb within three years.

The electromagnetic method is recommended for a production facility in Tennessee despite concerns regarding the ability to produce significant quantities of uranium-235.

The microscopic sample of pure plutonium produced in Chicago supports construction of a uranium pile separation facility in Tennessee at Site X.

The gaseous diffusion process developed at Columbia remains an option, however no uranium-235 had yet been produced and there are concerns about the quantity of nickel required as a barrier material.

The centrifuge option under development at the University of Virginia is eliminated due to high component failure rates.



Jimmy Bell's Vast Experience Brings Valuable Input to ORSSAB

ORSSAB member Jimmy Bell's knowledge and many years of experience have provided other board members valuable insight into a number of issues the board deals with.

Jimmy came to ORNL shortly after completing his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Mississippi in 1963. He spent the next 31 years at the lab in various positions. When he retired from the lab he continued to work as a consultant on nuclear issues that took him to countries around the world.

He talked about his career under the shade of a chestnut tree on his 100-acre cattle farm near Kingston.

Jimmy grew up in Hazelhurst, Ga., in the southeast part of the state. "If you draw a line from Macon, Ga., to Jacksonville, Fla., and bisect it that's where Hazelhurst is," he said.

Upon graduation from high school, he entered Berry College in Rome, Ga. "When I was there all the students worked 16 hours a week for the college," he said. "That's how we paid for our room and board."

Jimmy graduated from Berry in 1960 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and mathematics. He went directly to graduate school at Ole Miss and was there in 1962 when James Meredith became the first black student to enroll there. "I distinctly remember the day he came." He also remembers all the strife that followed.

Interestingly, Jimmy says the chemistry department had been recruiting black graduate students to the program, even before Meredith arrived. However, when this became known, he said many in the department, himself included since he was teaching at the time, were labeled as 'integrationists' and some of the professors began leaving. Jimmy said he and his wife, Luci, received a number of threatening phone calls.

In a way, the situation gave him the impetus to accelerate his study. When he learned several of the professors on his doctoral committee were going to leave, he increased his work load from 16 to 20 hours a day, and he finished his work by the end of August 1963. "Luci was a chemistry major, and she was a good writer and editor and typist, so she helped me edit the dissertation,



ORSSAB member Jimmy Bell enjoys one of his favorite spots, in the shade of a chestnut tree, on his cattle farm near Kingston.

and she typed two original copies to give to the graduate dean." Remember this was long before the advent of word processing and computer printers.

Within weeks he had a job offer at ORNL. "I went on one interview and they offered me a job," said Jimmy. "I couldn't believe anybody could be paid that much money."

He started in the chemical technology division doing applied research on reactor chemistry. "One of the things I knew I should do as soon as possible was publish some of my work," he said. "The first 10 years I spent a lot of time publishing the results of the research." After about two years he was a group leader, and once he was a group leader on two different projects. One was on light water reactors and the other on fusion reactors.

In the late 1970s, he was in charge of all spent fuel processing in the chemical technology division. In 1988 he became the section head for chemical development. That work expanded to study spent fission product releases after fuel has been in a reactor for a time and how the fuel components were affected after being irradiated. He

worked in that area until he retired in 1995.

Even while he was at the lab he had a role in the 1980s related to nuclear proliferation that took him around the world to inspect a number of re-processing plants. "That was tremendously interesting work and is probably the most effective thing I've done for this country in my career."

After leaving ORNL, Jimmy didn't completely retire. He did consulting work for a number of firms from 1995 until recently. From 1995-2001 he was co-chair of DOE's Tank Focus Group on how to manage tank waste.

Jimmy came to ORSSAB

through the urging of a friend who told him his knowledge and experience would be beneficial to the board. "I'm one of the few still around who helped dilute plutonium with depleted uranium to safe levels that was put in storage tanks in Melton Valley," he said.

Today he spends a lot of his time tending 42 head of beef cattle on his farm. "I usually have about 25 cows and calves, but the growing conditions recently have been good so I have a few more than that now. I grow all my hay for them. I have all the equipment I need to do it all myself.

"People ask why I do it. Well, it's enjoyable and a great way to relieve stress."

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Advocate

DOE Introduces New Members to Board at September Meeting

Susan Cange, ORSSAB's Deputy Designated Federal Officer, introduced three new members at the board's September meeting. Noel Berry, Mary Hatcher, and Wanda Smith were appointed to the board in July for two-year terms.

Noel is a resident of Knoxville and is a retired project management professional, with extensive experience in computers and related quality assurance issues. He has worked as a senior laboratory specialist and quality assurance/ build programmer for IBM and as a quality assurance engineer contracted to Siemens USA. He received his A.S. in electrical engineering technology from Chattanooga State Technical Institute in Chattanooga,

and his B.S. in computer science from St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas.

Mary is a student at Pellissippi Technical Community College in



Wanda Smith, Noel Berry, and Mary Hatcher (left to right) were introduced as new board members at the September meeting.

Knoxville, where she is working toward an A.S. in paralegal studies. Until 2006 she was the owner of a metal finishing and detailing business in Marshfield, Mo. Mary lives in Louisville.

Wanda lives near Rockwood and is the owner of a convenience store in Pine Orchard. She is a graduate of Harriman High School and is a former member of Head Start, the Morgan County Industrial Board, and the Morgan County Civil Service Board. She is a former vice president of the Morgan County Democratic Women's Club, and the former co-chair of the Morgan County Airport Planning Commission.

The three's first official meeting was the August annual meeting. The September meeting was their public introduction.

Former Board Member Reminds ORSSAB of Stewardship Importance

Former ORSSAB member and longtime Stewardship Committee member Lorene Sigal gave a presentation to the board on the importance of long-term stewardship to monitor and protect contaminated and hazardous waste remediated in place on the ORR.

At the September board meeting, Sigal reviewed the history of the work to make stewardship an essential part of cleanup of the reservation, including the writing of three major documents that formed the basis of much of ORSSAB's work today.

"As we struggled with issues related

to end uses of contaminated areas on the reservation, we realized the contamination wasn't going away," said Sigal. "We couldn't agree to leaving the contamination in place unless there was a long-term stewardship plan" she said. The result was publication of the "Final Report of the End Use Working Group" and the "Stakeholder Report on Stewardship, Volumes 1 and 2," which provided DOE with recommendations on end uses of the ORR and subsequent stewardship activities after cleanup is completed.

To write the three documents was a huge effort by a group of interested citizens. "It couldn't have happened if we didn't have dedicated members of the community working on it," said Sigal. She said DOE was of great help as well. "I can't say enough about the cooperation and support of DOE. They

Stewardship on the ORR

Acceptance of the responsibility and the implementation of activities necessary to maintain long-term protection of human health and the environment posed by residual radioactive and chemically hazardous materials.

provided everything we thought we needed to make decisions about end uses and stewardship."

Sigal continued her presentation to the board with an explanation of the goals of long-term stewardship and the essential elements of stewardship, and a review of short- and long-term stewardship activities that are currently followed by ORSSAB.

Sigal's presentation is available for viewing on ORSSAB's YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/ user/ORSSAB.

The "Final Report of the End Use Working Group" and the "Stakeholder Report on Stewardship, Volumes 1 and 2," and other stewardship-related materials are available on the ORSSAB website at http://www. oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/ under the Resources tab.



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ORSSAB Elects New Officers for FY 2014

ORSSAB elected new officers for FY 2014 at the September meeting.

Dave Hemelright was elected chair, Bruce Hicks, vice chair, and Lisa Hagy, secretary.

They were presented as the slate of candidates by an ad hoc Nominating Committee at the board's annual planning meeting in August.



Dave Hemelright

Additional nominations were asked for from the floor during the September meeting, but there were none.

Hemelright was the vice chair for FY 2013 and had been acting chair since his predecessor David Martin completed his term of service in July.

Hicks joined the board in July 2012 and has been an active member of the



Bruce Hicks

Finance & Process Committee and the EM Committee.

Hagy was appointed to the board in January 2012 and has served on the Stewardship Committee.

The new leadership assumed their offices at the conclusion of the September meeting.



Lisa Hagy



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ABBREVIATIONS

DOE — Department of Energy EM — Environmental Management EPA — Environmental Protection Agency ETTP — East Tennessee Technology Park ORNL — Oak Ridge National Laboratory ORR — Oak Ridge Reservation ORSSAB — Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board TDEC — TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation Y-12 — Y-12 National Security Complex

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Board meeting

October 9, 6:00 p.m., topic: Groundwater Strategy Development for the ORR.

Committee Meetings

See our website at *www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab* for dates and meeting topics.



