

## New Cleanup Contractor Selected for Oak Ridge Reservation; Work Focused at ETTP

The big news since May has been the announcement of a new cleanup contractor for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). Actually it’s a partnership of three contractors that will concentrate on completing the cleanup work at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

The engineering firms of URS Corp., CH2M Hill, and RSI of Oak Ridge have formed an alliance that

of professionals knowledgeable in the field of decontamination and decommissioning work,” said John Eschenberg, Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office Assistant Manager for Environmental Management (EM). “URS and CH2M Hill have worked together for more than a decade on eight of the most challenging jobs in the DOE complex and have consistently met DOE orders.

The UCOR team understands the challenges and responsibilities that ETTP presents.

“UCOR’s commitment to employee, environmental, and public safety is paramount in



will be known as UCOR to finish the decontamination and demolition (D&D) of the K-25 Building at ETTP and its sister Building K-27, as well as some surveillance and maintenance activities and waste management operations at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex. UCOR is a similar arrangement that Bechtel National and Jacobs Engineering had when they formed Bechtel Jacobs, Co., the ORR cleanup contractor since 1998.

The estimated value of the contract over five years is almost \$2.24 billion with an option for an additional four years. Sixty percent of the contract is expected to be subcontracted, about half of that going to small businesses.

“The partnering of URS and CH2M Hill provides a proven team

their execution of work. I am confident that UCOR will successfully carry out and achieve the challenges that ETTP presents.”

The transition from the current contractor, Bechtel Jacobs, to UCOR is scheduled to be completed by the first of August, but it could be as early as mid-July.

During June UCOR held three open meetings in Oak Ridge to introduce its leadership team to current and prospective employees and Oak Ridge citizens. Not surprisingly, many of the questions from the attendees related to job retention and possible new hires. The UCOR representatives didn’t get into specifics, but UCOR president Leo Sain said UCOR’s goal was to keep everyone employed if possible.

Issue 43 • July 2011

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As part of their presentation UCOR officials emphasized doing work safely, which is also a DOE priority. In a letter to the Oak Ridge community posted on UCOR’s website, Sain said, “Safety of the employee, the public, and the environment is of paramount importance to us. If a job cannot be done safely, it will not be done.”

UCOR will have to put that safety culture and experience to good use at K-25. The building is in such poor shape that Bechtel Jacobs had to do some shoring up to protect workers and even limit access inside the building as much as possible.

While URS and CH2M Hill have a history of working together on DOE cleanup projects, RSI is no stranger to DOE having more than a decade of experience in environmental restoration and characterization. RSI has been doing much of the characterization work at ETTP, which should help in transitioning from Bechtel Jacobs to UCOR. 

## DOE Honors Six Retiring Members for Service to ORSSAB

After six years, 70 board meetings, and an untold number of committee meetings, six members of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) have retired from the board.

Darryl Bonner, Steve Dixon, Lance Mezga, and Bob Olson completed the maximum number of terms allowed by ORSSAB bylaws and were required to retire from the board. Ted Lundy and Kevin Westervelt chose not to serve a third term. The retiring members will be replaced and other open vacancies will be filled in July when DOE anticipates seating a total of 10 new members on the board.

The six retiring members were presented awards of service at the June 8 ORSSAB meeting by DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM John Eschenberg.

“This is quite a contribution, not only to the board and the DOE mission, but also to our community,” Eschenberg told the group. “It’s going to be tough to replace the expertise exhibited by you.

“Words really can’t express what I feel, or what I think the board and the entire community feels, about what this contribution means. You each have other commitments, but

at the end of the day, you’ve made a decision to serve on a public advisory board, and I think that there’s something to be said for that—and it’s that you believe strongly in what we’re doing and that you can contribute and make things better for today’s community and for our children tomorrow.”

ORSSAB Chair Ron Murphree echoed Eschenberg’s sentiments. “It’s

Stewardship Committee chair for four years and its vice chair for two.


Steve Dixon lives in Louisville and was ORSSAB chair in 2009 and vice chair in 2008, and chair of the Board Finance & Process Committee for four years.

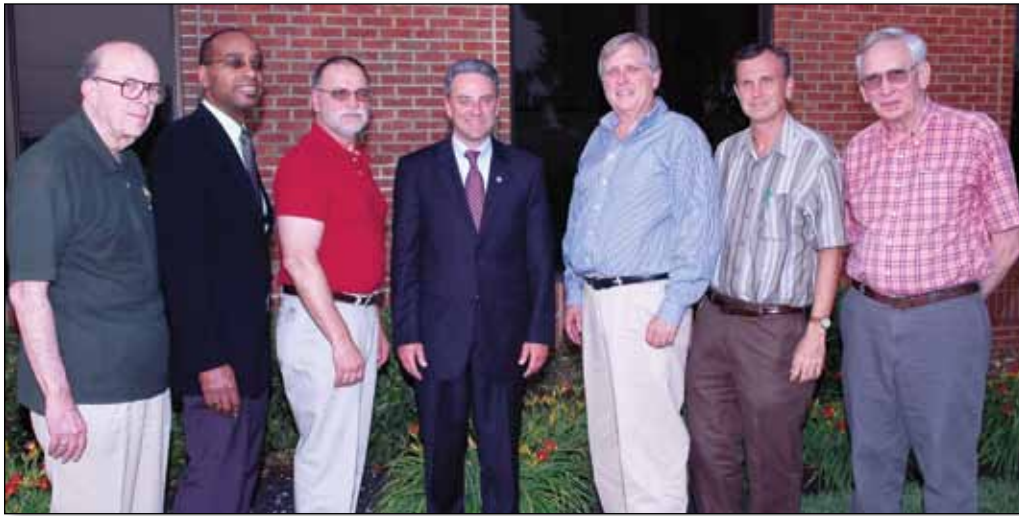
Ted Lundy lives in Knoxville and was a member of the Stewardship Committee from 2008 to 2011 and also served on the Public Outreach and Board Finance & Process committees.

Lance Mezga is a resident of Knoxville and was ORSSAB chair in 2007 and 2008, and served on the EM Committee during the entire six years of his tenure on the board.

Bob Olson is an Oak Ridge resident, who was on

the EM Committee during the entire six years of his board tenure, serving as chair in 2010 and 2011.

Kevin Westervelt lives in Knoxville and was ORSSAB vice chair in 2010 and 2011, and chair of the Public Outreach Committee in 2008 and 2009. 



Six long-time ORSSAB members attended their last meeting in June. They were recognized for their service by John Eschenberg, center, the DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM. Leaving the board from left to right are Ted Lundy, Darryl Bonner, Lance Mezga, Steve Dixon, Kevin Westervelt, and Bob Olson.

going to be extremely difficult for us to replace this much knowledge and dedication at one time. You can tell from their accomplishments that it’s not just members we’re losing, it’s key members. I am really indebted to them for the service they’ve given and the help they’ve provided us the past six years. Their commitment and leadership has been instrumental to the success of the board, and they will be greatly missed.”

Darryl Bonner is an Oak Ridge resident, who has served as the board’s



The traditional going away cake had the most names on it ever at the June meeting.

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## ORSSAB Says Farewell to Outgoing Student Representatives in April and Welcomes New Students at May Board Meeting

ORSSAB and DOE recognized outgoing student representatives Brianna Goodlin and Josh Monroe at the April board meeting as they completed their one-year terms.

"I thank both of them for serving on the board," said John Eschenberg, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM. "They have brought a youthful energy to the board, and I hope it's been a good experience for them."

"The students serve with us voluntarily for a year, and they have been excellent additions to the board," said board Chair Ron Murphree. "We always try to get the best and the brightest to work with us. Brianna and Josh are good examples of that effort."

Brianna graduated in May from Hardin Valley Academy where she was the valedictorian for 2011. She had been accepted to all of the Ivy League schools as well as Duke and Stanford, but she chose to attend Harvard.

"I really value my time that I spent on the board," she said, "and I know that the knowledge and skills I have learned are going to benefit me for

years to come, especially as I go to work and become even more aware of how I impact the environment. I also value the insight on how the government partners with citizens to gain different perspectives and work on finding solu-



*Brianna Goodlin and Josh Monroe were the ORSSAB student representatives for 2010-11.*

tions to our problems that everyone can be happy with."

Josh graduated from Oak Ridge High School. He plans to attend the University of Georgia and study marine biology. "The things I learned while serving on the board will no doubt help me in the future and I thank everyone for that," he said. "Though I didn't always understand the science or the politics behind everything that went on, it felt good knowing that I was getting exposed to this critical piece of the process early rather than farther down the road."

In May the board welcomed two new student representatives, Kasey McMaster and Amira Sakalla.


Kasey is a senior at Oak Ridge High, where she participates on the volleyball team year-round. She became interested in ORSSAB

through her advanced placement Environmental Science class.

She enjoys playing sports, spending time with friends, and reading. Kasey plans to major in business, but has not decided on a college at this time.

Amira Sakalla, a senior at Hardin Valley Academy, is captain and first seed of the tennis team and is active in the National Honor Society and the French Club.

Amira volunteers as a Sunday school teacher and as a referee with the American Youth Soccer Organization on weekends. She plans to major in pre-med and eventually become a pediatrician.

"It's always exciting to bring new student representatives to the board," said Murphree. "We think it's a good way to expose young people to aspects of a government agency and for them to see how the public plays a role through this advisory board. We hope they will come away with a better appreciation of public involvement and how citizens can have an impact in civic matters." 


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### George Roberts Attends First Board Meeting in May

George Roberts, retired engineer from the Precision Disc Corporation, attended his first ORSSAB meeting in May.



George is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving as a captain and squadron commander.

A Heiskell resident, he is a member of the the Anderson County Board of Zoning Appeals. 



*The ORSSAB student representatives for FY 2011-12 are Kasey McMaster, left, and Amira Sakalla.*

## ORSSAB Experience Has Been Rewarding for Member David Martin

After a long career as an electrical engineer, board member David Martin could be described now as a 'retired gentleman farmer.' He and wife Nancy live in Harriman near their 160-acre farm, which has been in his family since the 1820s. "This is a legacy farm. It has been handed down through the generations since it was first acquired from the federal government in 1824," he says.

David inherited the farm from his mother. "Interestingly enough it's been kept in the family often through the daughters. The sons would move away and one of the daughters would, with her husband, stay and buy out the others. This is the way it was for four generations before me."

These days he operates it as a cattle farm with a mixed herd of 30-40 head, plus he sells a small amount of forest products. "This is grass country," he says. "The land does not row crop well because it is highly erodible. The old joke is if you want to dig a ditch just drag a

chain where you want it and you'll have your ditch in a few weeks. I'm working now to close out the last of the old eroded ditches on the place."

Originally from Rome, Ga., David studied electrical engineering at the University of Tennessee. That's where he met Nancy, who was studying education. They have two children, Nora and Andrew.

When they graduated in the early 1970s, they both found jobs in

Cartersville, Ga. David went to work for Georgia Power Co. and over the years held a number of positions in engineering, operations, and maintenance at the Bowen Generating Station. "In 1995 they offered me an opportunity to retire. I took it and went out on my own. I did contract engineering in the electric power industry in and outside the U.S. until 2010. Although I still keep a couple of clients I farm pretty much full time."

When the Martins returned to Tennessee in 2002 their first thought was to live on Watts Bar Lake, but

I saw an ad for board membership I decided to apply and I'm glad I did." He's been a board member since 2007.

"So many of my initial concerns have been addressed in a positive way, like White Oak Creek. It's well under control. I'm not overly concerned about the sediments in the Clinch River and Watts Bar Lake. At ORNL, though, we have some problems, particularly with the uranium-233 stored at Building 3019. It's holding that whole research facility hostage until we can get it taken care of. And because of the amount of money needed to dispose of that

material it could negatively affect the cleanup of other areas of the reservation."

Regarding his experience on the board David said it's been rewarding for him. "I'm glad we've increased our board membership limit to 22 because in the next eight to 10 years there will be so much going on and it's critical that we have enough people to cover it. I think board members should take every opportunity to get out on the

reservation. Every time we've been able to go out and see what's going on we've been able to come back and contribute in a positive way toward cleanup."

As a board member David currently serves as the vice chair of the EM Committee and he's on the Public Outreach Committee. He's also been vice chair of the Stewardship Committee and looks forward to serving on the Board Finance & Process Committee before leaving the board.



*David Martin stands on a hill that overlooks a large part of his 160-acre farm in Roane County. The farm has been in his family since the 1820s.*

a family friend from Oak Ridge questioned that plan because of contamination in White Oak Creek and the Lower Watts Bar Reservoir. "I'd never heard of that so I started reading about some of the problems on the Oak Ridge Reservation," said David. "I started reading Frank Munger's articles in the *News Sentinel* about the reclamation work on the reservation. Living so close felt I needed to know more about what was going on. When

## Reservation Update

### DOE Plans Reorganization, Budget Cutting Moves in Oak Ridge

DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM John Eschenberg informed ORSSAB at its June 8 meeting that changes are underway at the federal building that may greatly impact how the EM program operates here.

According to Eschenberg, there are two initiatives going on simultaneously in the Oak Ridge office. First, DOE is looking at its operating overhead and what it costs to do business.

"In a nutshell," he explained, "what's driving the budget changes is the fact that this month our country bumped up against its debt ceiling. This year our country's running a \$1.4 trillion deficit."

Oak Ridge currently spends about \$100 million per year in salaries and operations. DOE is evaluating that expenditure to make sure it's spending it as efficiently as possible, he said.

The second initiative is aimed at reorganizing the management structure. "DOE has a very unique set-up in Oak Ridge," Eschenberg said. "Pretty much if DOE-Headquarters does something, we do some piece of it here in Oak Ridge, whether it be science, cleanup, or nuclear fuel supply. So what's being evaluated is, can we have the managers of those organizations in Oak Ridge—EM, Science, and Nuclear Fuel Supply—report directly to their HQ counterparts, and have the service center as a separate entity."

Oak Ridge supplies support to six other DOE sites, providing services such as public affairs, legal, and select business services.

The proposal has caused some consternation in the community already because this setup is very different from the structure now employed. The heads of EM, Science, and Nuclear Fuel Supply currently report to the DOE-Oak Ridge manager, not directly to headquarters, and some worry that

the new organization will take away the centralizing focus the Oak Ridge manager brings.

Eschenberg addressed this point at the meeting, saying that "an important component of this proposal is that the new office manager still has the same responsibility and authority, which is to make sure that the three line managers (EM, Science, and Nuclear Fuel Supply) are mutually supportive of each other, and that DOE still speaks in one voice." The manager will also be responsible for running the service center, he said.

As for the Oak Ridge EM program budget, Eschenberg said it suffered about a 5 percent cut this year, "and as far out as we can see, I think that there will be likely about a 5 percent cut henceforth. So it's prudent to think about how we do business."

The Oak Ridge EM program received an allocation of \$401 million for FY 2011 and will likely receive that amount for FY 2012, Eschenberg said. This is significantly less than the roughly \$500 million the program had been enjoying before the start of the Recovery Act, which buoyed the local EM budget to record heights.

Eschenberg said he intends to provide the board with a more detailed presentation at its July 13 meeting, showing what the organization looks like today and what it might look like in the future. The presentation will also discuss current operating costs and areas where DOE might become more efficient.

There is no timetable for the restructuring, Eschenberg said, but the Oak Ridge Office is looking to start reducing operating costs right away.

### Budget Shortfalls Affecting TRU Waste Processing


DOE announced in May that its Central Characterization Project (CCP) team will be pulling out of Oak Ridge and will no longer be inspecting and certifying transuranic (TRU) wastes for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

Waste processing will still continue at DOE's TRU Waste Processing Center (TWPC), but Oak Ridge will not be able to ship those wastes without CCP involvement.

DOE said in a statement, "Although CCP will not be at the TWPC to characterize the waste that is required to be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for disposal, work will not stop.

"The TRU waste inventory processed at TWPC contains a significant amount of waste, approximately 50 percent of which, upon characterization, is determined to be mixed low-level waste.

"In order to ensure continued progress towards meeting our TRU waste processing goals, TWPC will focus (in 2012-2013) on the screening of the TRU waste, and the processing and removal of low-level and mixed low-level waste from the inventory.

"They will also continue with the remediation and repackaging of TRU waste so that it can be efficiently certified when CCP returns, which we anticipate will be in FY 2014. We are in the process of working with the regulators to identify the impacts this may have on our milestones." 

### Snap Shots in Oak Ridge Cleanup

#### 10 years ago...

Work began on the EM Waste Management Facility in Bear Creek Valley (EMWWMF).

Expanded several times over the years, the most recent build-out increased capacity to 2.2 million cubic yards, the most allowed at that location by regulatory agreements.

#### 5 years ago...

ORSSAB hosted the national EM SSAB Chairs' meeting.

On hand was DOE Assistant Secretary for EM James Rispoli.

## Recent Board Recommendations

ORSSAB was busy in May and June approving six recommendations for DOE to consider. For complete details on all ORSSAB recommendations visit the board's website at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc).

### Recommendations on FY 2013 DOE-Oak Ridge EM Budget Request

In May the board recommended that DOE use the recently developed Dynamic Planning Model to request \$550-\$600 million in funding for FY 2013. The planning model was created so various scenarios of prioritization, timing, and budget could be evaluated to help formulate a budget request to DOE-Headquarters.

The board also asked that specific projects — the Uranium-233 Project, the D&D of Building 3019, and the central stack at ORNL — receive particular consideration in prioritizing and funding. The board said those projects represent a considerable risk to the current missions at the lab.

### Recommendation to Establish a Site Transition Process Upon Completion of Remediation at Ongoing Mission Sites

When a DOE site is cleaned up and permanently closed a procedure exists for long-term stewardship activities at the site. But no similar procedures are standardized for cleanup of areas at ongoing mission sites like Oak Ridge.

The DOE Office of Legacy Management, which is responsible for overseeing stewardship at closed sites, has a fact sheet that it uses to guide the transition process from cleanup to closure.

The board recommended that DOE EM develop a similar fact sheet to use in transferring remediated areas back to the original landlords. In Oak Ridge

the landlords would be the Office of Science at ORNL and the National Nuclear Security Administration at Y-12.

### Recommendation to Remove Uncontaminated Areas of the ORR from the National Priorities List

In 1989 the ORR was placed on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL), identifying that the reservation was to be cleaned up under the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980.

The ORR encompasses about 34,000 acres, all of it within the Oak Ridge city limits. However, only about 10 percent of the reservation has contamination. Even though all of the ORR is on the NPL, EPA policy specifies that while a site may be described in terms of geographical boundaries, for the purpose of an NPL listing, only those areas that are contaminated are considered to be part of the NPL site.

The board recommended that the NPL boundaries of the ORR be redrawn to include only the contaminated areas of the reservation.

The board believes that redrawing the boundaries would present a more positive image of the ORR and the Oak Ridge community as not being as contaminated as is often perceived.

### Recommendation on the Decision Process for Siting a Second Waste Disposal Facility on the ORR

Almost all of the low-level radioactive waste from cleanup projects across the ORR is disposed in the EMWMF in Bear Creek Valley.

EMWMF has been expanded several times since it was first built in 2002. The latest expansion, completed in June, brings total disposal capacity to

2.2 million cubic yards, the most that is allowed at the current location.

But with the many demolition projects underway and expected in the future it's almost certain that additional capacity will be needed or waste will have to be shipped offsite.

But the board recognized that building a second waste disposal facility could create significant public interest and possibly opposition. It also recognized that the siting decision process could take years and be subject to delays and revisions. Delays could jeopardize timely completion of cleanup projects or result in costly offsite disposal. Delays could also affect modernization activities at Y-12 and ORNL.

The board recommended that DOE begin public participation activities as soon as possible. It recommended that DOE work with local government officials and stakeholders to learn of concerns and preferences.

ORSSAB's recommendation had a number of other points that included:

- re-evaluate original siting studies to determine if formerly considered sites are viable
- evaluate the possibility of acquiring a Resource Conservation Recovery Act permit for disposal of hazardous and mixed-low level waste
- identify ways to compensate local communities for economic losses that could result from an additional waste repository
- manage waste segregation to assure disposal capacity will be adequate
- incorporate recycling where possible.

### Recommendation on the Liquid Low-Level Waste Pipelines Northern Characterization Study Area

In the central campus of ORNL is the Liquid Low-Level Waste Pipeline Northern Characterization Study Area. This irregular-shaped area is between

*(Continued on page 7)*

## EM SSAB Representatives Gather in Nevada for Semiannual Meeting

The semiannual SSAB chairs meetings provide representatives from the eight local SSABs across the DOE complex an opportunity to hear firsthand from DOE-Headquarters on the status of a number of cleanup-related issues.

At the spring meeting, hosted June 14–16 in Las Vegas by the Nevada SSAB, representatives heard updates on the EM program and waste disposition activities from Shirley Olinger, EM Associate Principal Deputy for Corporate Operations. A budget update was provided by Joann Luczak, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Planning and Budget.

An interesting presentation on groundwater issues and remediation was given by Paul Dixon, ASCEM Multi-Laboratory Project Manager, and Mark Williamson, ASCEM Program Manager. “Advanced Simulation Capability for EM” is a state-of-the-

art tool for predicting contaminant fate and transport through natural and engineered systems. It was created to assist cleanup at DOE sites by facilitating a new approach for




*ORSSAB Chair Ron Murphree (left) and member Steve Dixon represented ORSSAB at the spring 2011 chairs meeting in Las Vegas.*

integrated groundwater modeling and site characterization.

Presentation materials on the ASCEM program, as well as other

presentations given at the meeting will be available in the near future on the DOE-Headquarters SSAB website ([www.em.doe.gov/Pages/ssab.aspx](http://www.em.doe.gov/Pages/ssab.aspx)).

At each chairs meeting the local SSABs present the top three issues of concern for their sites, as well as their top accomplishments and activities. ORSSAB's three issues were: current Oak Ridge EM budget, long-term budget, and potential offsite releases. The accomplishment was support for the board's membership recruitment drive (which netted a record 63 applications). The major board activity was participation in the public workshop on the FY 2013 Oak Ridge EM budget.

The chairs finished work on the second day of the meeting by approving three recommendations, which must now be ratified by the members of the local SSABs before they can be transmitted to DOE-Headquarters. 

## Board Recommendations

*(Continued on from page 6)*

the Tank W-1A removal area and Building 3019. Pipes in the study area transferred waste from Buildings 2026, 3019, and 3019B to the North and South Tank Farms.

In 2005 a groundwater engineering study identified soil contamination in the study area. It was suspected that the waste line to Tank W-1A may have leaked causing radiological contamination in the soil.

The board's EM Committee was briefed on the Tank W-1A Removal Action, the planned cleanup of the liquid low-level waste pipelines and soils immediately to the north of Tank W-1A, and efforts to capture and treat the plume associated with Tank W-1A.

Based on the committee's evaluation of the problem, the board made the

following recommendations:

- rather than grout and leave out-of-service lines in place, remove them wherever they are exposed by excavation
- assure appropriate actions are taken to minimize the potential for release of contaminants during cleanup of soils and pipelines
- minimize the delay between projects to reduce potential of recontamination of Tank W-1A.


### Recommendation on Salt Removal at the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment

The Molten Salt Reactor at ORNL was an experiment that tested the concept of using molten salt to carry uranium fuel through the reactor chamber. When the experiment was

shut down the uranium was extracted and the salt was drained into three storage tanks and allowed to cool.

In the last few years there have been attempts to remove the salt with little success, usually related to plugging of the drain pipes.

A recent engineering evaluation considered several options for removing the salt or leaving it undisturbed for up to 50 years.

Rather than leaving the salt in place, the board recommended that an effort begin right away to find a disposal path for the salt and a removal method that has a good chance of success. The board also recommended that work get underway to understand why the pipes have plugged preventing draining of the tanks. 

## Company Operated by ORSSAB Member Assists with Japanese Nuclear Plant

A company operated by ORSSAB member Chuck Jensen has been shipping underwater demineralizers to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. The plant was damaged in March as the result of a powerful earthquake and resulting tsunami.

Diversified Technologies Services, Inc. (DTS) began shipping the vessels in May. Pre-loaded with ion-selective processing media, “the units are placed in spent fuel pools, basements, and trenches to capture the millions of curies of activity to help lower the dose rate of the water,” said Jensen.


Though it usually takes DTS six to eight weeks to deliver an underwater demineralizer, considering the seriousness of the situation, Japanese

officials asked if these could be delivered more quickly. Jensen’s company was happy to oblige.



*Board member Chuck Jensen’s company has been supplying demineralizers to the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan.*

In order to make the schedule, DTS enlisted three other American companies and a facility in Russia to supply the needed processing media.

The media-filled vessels, each weighing about a ton, were air shipped to Japan as fast as they could be fabricated, loaded with media, and tested. Jensen reports that his company will also be involved in the planning for site decommissioning, which is expected to take 20 to 30 years. 

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## Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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### ABBREVIATIONS

**D&D** — decontamination and decommissioning  
**DOE** — Department of Energy  
**EM** — Environmental Management  
**EMWMF** — EM Waste Management Facility  
**ORNL** — Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
**ORR** — Oak Ridge Reservation  
**ORSSAB** — Oak Site Specific Advisory Board  
**Y-12** — Y-12 National Security Complex

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

#### **Board Meeting**

July 13, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Committee Meetings**

July 19, 5:30 p.m. – Stewardship

July 20, 5:30 p.m. – Environmental Mgmt.