

ORSSAB Plans for FY17 with DOE and Regulators from EPA and TDEC

The Oak Ridge Site Specific
Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its
2016 Annual Planning Meeting in
Townsend, Tennessee, on August 6.
The Saturday meeting brought together
members of the Oak Ridge board, leadership from the U.S. Department of
Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of
Environmental Management (OREM),
and liaisons from the Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA) and the
Tennessee Department of Environment

and Conservation (TDEC) to review cleanup accomplishments in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and discuss priorities for FY17.

Sue Cange, OREM's manager, opened the day's proceedings with a presentation on recent successes and near-term goals for the program. She highlighted OREM's successful completion of a decade-long project at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). The accomplishment,

celebrated as "Vision 2016," undertook large-scale cleanup operations to safely demolish and remove five uranium enrichment processing buildings, including Building K-25, now an empty footprint at the site. Completion marked Oak Ridge as first among

DOE's EM sites nationwide, and in the world, to successfully remove all of its former uranium enrichment processing buildings. Insights gained from Oak Ridge will go on to inform future EM work on similar projects at the gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio.

For a program now entering a post-Vision 2016 era, the Oak Ridge manager looked ahead to future visions for 2020 and 2024. Vision 2020 is

manager looked ahead to future visions for 2020 and 2024. Vision 2020 is "We are proud of successful accompliance of Environment for 2020 and 2024. Vision 2020 is "We are proud of successful accompliance of Environment for 2020 and 2024. Vision 2020 is "We are proud of successful accompliance of Environment for 2020 and 2024. Vision 2020 is Topics are discussed at the Annual Planning Meeting. ORSSAB Work Plan Topics Process Work plan is sent to the Docket Plan Topics Process ORSSAB Work Plan Topics Process Work plan is sent to the Docket Plan Topics Process ORSSAB Work Plan Topics Process

Flowchart detailing ORSSAB's work plan process.

esignee and the ORSSAB Chair

DOE's goal to complete the remaining cleanup at ETTP and transfer the site for reindustrialization by 2020. Vision 2024 moves beyond ETTP to work scope planned for the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) to address mercury contamination.

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"We are proud of a safe and successful accomplishment of Vision

2016, and as we embark on a new vision for 2020, we will continue to focus on our remaining work scope at the ETTP site to complete cleanup and reindustrialize the land," said Cange.

ORSSAB's annual meeting provides a valuable opportunity for board members to gain insights from DOE, EPA, and TDEC on upcoming cleanup priorities and to suggest

topics for inclusion into the board's FY17 work plan, a schedule of meetings arranged by DOE to provide the board with essential information on key projects and important issues for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) and the community.

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ORSSAB Plans for FY17

(Continued from page 1)

"DOE formulates a schedule of meetings and presentations to provide our members sufficient background information on key topics," said Belinda Price, ORSSAB's chair, "but the work plan really develops out of the collaboration that takes place here and reflects our shared interests."

ORSSAB's major role as an advisory board to DOE comes through formal recommendations made by the board to provide input and public perspectives on federal cleanup projects locally. Having a solid work plan for the year aids the board in that service.

DOE, EPA, and TDEC each provided suggested FY17 topics for ORSSAB to consider. DOE's Dave Adler outlined the following:

- Input on reuse and historic preservation activities at ETTP.
- Participation in ongoing efforts to assure sufficient waste disposal capacity.
- Participation in efforts to address excess contaminated facilities.
- Evaluation of ongoing groundwater efforts.
- Maintain ORSSAB awareness on key material disposition activities.
- Provision of input into the **FY19 budget** development.

Representatives from EPA and TDEC reviewed similar priorities. Kristof Czartoryski, the board's TDEC liaison, added transuranic (TRU) waste processing to the list. He encouraged funding for the TRU Sludge Processing Facility and advocated for removal of TRU waste from Trench 13 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Jeff Crane, EPA Region 4 (Atlanta), emphasized greater implementation of the Groundwater Strategy as critical in the near term and stressed the need for an effective outreach program from DOE to inform and engage the community on federal projects.

Board members in turn reflected on the board's recent accomplishments and the success of last year's work plan. ORSSAB issued three recommendations to DOE in FY16, hosted a national conference, and participated in numerous public outreach activities. Members were particularly enthusiastic about the inclusion of site tours in the previous work plan and looked forward to continuing the practice in FY17.

The board's new work plan for FY17 will be signed into effect before the fiscal year begins, which kicks off with the board's first FY17 meeting on Wednesday, October 12.



Board members with representatives from DOE, EPA, and TDEC at the 2016 annual meeting.

Board Members Motivated by FY16 Work Plan

Each year, ORSSAB's members follow a work plan that outlines annual objectives and guides the board in preparing recommendations to DOE on federal cleanup projects in Oak Ridge.

Last year's work plan emphasized a hands-on approach to learning and engaged board members in a variety of activities designed to increase knowledge and raise public awareness on local environmental issues.

Topics

In 2016 ORSSAB's members focused on topics ranging from waste

disposition, groundwater, and mercury remediation to budget formulation, public outreach, and program planning.

Interest grew in groundwater monitoring activities for the ORR, and in February the board's EM & Stewardship Committee attended a special presentation led by Leidos Engineering staff on DOE's efforts to produce a regional groundwater flow model. In September, the committee hosted a follow-up talk with Dan Goode of the U.S. Geological Survey on the current status of the model.



Retired ORSSAB members Bob Hatcher and Alfreda Cook preparing for the May meeting.

Board Members Motivated by FY16 Work Plan

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Site Tours

The FY16 work plan incorporated site tours to engage ORSSAB's members with learning opportunities in the field. Members visited Y-12 to learn more about OREM's waste management activities, and they toured the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory at ORNL to learn about technology development and ongoing research to address mercury contamination in East Fork Poplar Creek.

Accomplishments

ORSSAB hosted the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB) for its 2016 Spring Chairs Meeting, which took place in April in Oak



ORNI's Mark Peterson shows a river sturgeon to board members Richard Burroughs (in front), (from left) Elizabeth Ross, Ed Trujillo, and Greg Paulus.

Ridge. The national conference brought together leadership from DOE's EM program and representatives from eight site-specific advisory boards to discuss the priorities, challenges, and accomplishments at DOE's major cleanup sites across the U.S.

ORSSAB participates annually in various community events and national meetings. In the spring, board members took part in Oak Ridge's Earth Day and OREM's community budget workshop.

Board officers Belinda Price and Dave Hemelright represented ORSSAB at the 2016 Waste Management Symposium, in which Oak Ridge was a featured site. The pair also traveled to Las Vegas for the 2016 EM SSAB Fall Chairs Meeting. Price presented ORSSAB's future priorities and challenges before the EM SSAB during the fall meeting.

ORSSAB issued three recommendations to DOE in FY16 and supplied comments on plans for the K-25 Virtual Museum at ETTP.

Board members witnessed both the "first bite" on Building K-27 in February and the final wall tumbling down in August as demolition crews worked this year to complete removal of the last of five gaseous diffusion plant buildings at ETTP.

Member News

Several board members retired in 2016, but new additions have also joined ORSSAB's ranks. Lisa Hagy and Corkie Staley retired in January, and in June, six more members: Alfreda Cook, Bob Hatcher, Jennifer Kasten, Donald Mei, Scott Stout, and Wangfang Zhou.

DOE appointed Elizabeth Ross to the board in February, and nine additional members joined in July. Kathryn Bales, Christopher Beatty, Rosario Gonzalez, Eddie Holden, Deni Sobek, Fred Swindler, Venita Thomas, Rudy Weigel, and Phil Yager are ORSSAB's newest members. Two non-voting student representatives, Lara Manning and Gabrielle McAllister, are the board's youngest recruits of the year.

The board held its annual planning meeting in August to review past accomplishments and look to future priorities. And in September



New ORSSAB members Venita Thomas, Eddie Holden, and Christopher Beatty at EM's Vision 2016 celebration.

ORSSAB's final meeting of FY16 brought together familiar faces and welcomed new ones for whom the gathering was their first official board meeting as ORSSAB members.

The occasion evoked a mixture of remembrance and revitalization. Past accomplishments were recalled and future ambitions imagined in a discussion that both celebrated Vision 2016 and looked ahead to Vision 2020 and EM's progress toward reindustrialization of the ETTP site.





DOE Advisory Boards Assemble in Las Vegas for Semi-Annual Meeting

Board leadership from Oak Ridge and from the seven other site-specific advisory boards located across the country met with officials from DOE's EM program to address the recent successes and future challenges for a massive cleanup effort focused on waste disposition, future land use, and long-term stewardship at EM sites nationwide.

Members of the eight individual advisory boards collectively known as

Nevada National Security Site, followed by a two-day meeting featuring presentations from EM leadership, a round robin panel highlighting the work of individual boards, and opportunities for open discussion and public comments.

Asst. Secretary for EM Monica Regalbuto attended the Las Vegas meeting on the heels of her appearance in Oak Ridge the day before to recognize and join in celebrating Vision group on Wednesday about EM's recent successes, administrative reorganization, and the future of the EM program.

Among the sites acknowledged for recent achievements were EM's West Valley Demonstration Project, which passed the halfway mark this year in a massive work effort to relocate 278 canisters of high-level radioactive waste in preparation for demolition activities on the site. The Hanford site continues to make progress on facilities that will allow "vitrification" of the site's tank waste, a process used to stabilize liquid waste in a solid glass form for longterm storage. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico, was also mentioned for active cold operations that bring the facility closer to its anticipated reopening.

The assistant secretary further discussed changes in management designed to develop a more "field-centric" program. The recent reordering of EM's administrative offices will strengthen communications and aid field operations. The addition of several new program offices will oversee key initiatives like technology development and modernization across the complex to improve efficiency, promote worker safety, and cut program costs.

Regalbuto concluded her address by looking ahead to opportunities for innovation and technological advancements that will enhance EM's approach to waste disposition and aid the program's workforce. The use of robotics and wearable tech are being explored as part of a worker-driven initiative for smart solutions that

optimize safety and performance.



ORSSAB challenges and priorities presented at the 2016 EM SSAB Fall Chairs Meeting.

the EM Site-Specific Advisory Board or "EM SSAB" convened August 30–September 2 for the 2016 Fall Chairs Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, organized this year by the Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board. The event included a full-day tour of the

2016, a major EM milestone marking the East Tennessee site as the first in the world to complete demolition and cleanup of the enrichment processing buildings in a decommissioned uranium enrichment complex.

Regalbuto spoke to the Las Vegas



Advisory Boards Assemble in Las Vegas

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From EM Headquarters (HQ), David Borak, EM SSAB Designated Federal Officer, gave opening remarks and shared "News and Views" from HQ. Frank Marcinowski, Asst. Principal Deputy Asst. Secretary for Regulatory & Policy Affairs, led talks



ORSSAB leadership Dave Hemelright (left) and Belinda Price (far right) with Asst.
Secretary for EM Monica Regalbuto. Photo credit Christy Morris.

on the ongoing recovery actions at WIPP, the national TRU waste program, and waste packaging and transportation. Connie Flohr, Deputy Asst. Secretary for Resource Management, and Lois Jessup, Director of the Office of Program Planning, discussed EM's budget and strategic communications related to funding acquisition.

A common thread among all the presentations was the need for better storytelling to convey EM's successes and demonstrate progress for work less visible than site restoration or the large-scale demolition projects which took place under the Recovery Act (2009).

Belinda Price and Dave Hemelright represented ORSSAB at the meeting. Price formally presented to the EM SSAB on recent accomplishments and upcoming challenges for the Oak Ridge site. She identified four priorities for the ORR:

- Continued support for offsite groundwater monitoring,
- Planning to ensure future waste disposal capacity,
- Greater efforts to engage community perspectives, and
- Continued support for technology development to address mercury contamination in East Fork Poplar Creek.

In lieu of collaborating on an EM SSAB recommendation, as typically occurs during chairs meetings, boards instead contributed to a transition "white paper" for the new administration in Washington, D.C., that

addresses near-term priorities and future challenges at each of DOE's major cleanup sites.

The next meeting of the EM SSAB occurs this spring in Paducah, Kentucky.



ORSSAB Chair Belinda Price and staff member Ashley Huff get a backstage tour of the Las Vegas High Roller, a 550-foottall Ferris wheel, during an EM SSAB networking event.

EM Celebrates Completion of "Vision 2016" Milestone

OREM completed a major milestone in Oak Ridge cleanup in fulfilling its "vision" for 2016 and moving the

program closer to its plans to reindustrialize the ETTP site.

Vision 2016 caps a decade of work to demolish and remove the uranium enrichment processing buildings at ETTP, culminating this year in the demolition of Building K-27, the last of the five gaseous diffusion buildings once standing at the site.

Demolition crews took the "first bite" at Building K-27 in early February and the last wall came down at the end of August.

A ceremony to commemorate the achievement was well attended by EM

leadership, the local work force, and members of the board.

Asst. Secretary for EM Monica

Regalbuto attended the event and celebrated OREM's accomplishment as the first time in the world all of a site's uranium enrichment processing buildings have been successfully demolished and removed.

"The lessons learned here in Oak Ridge are invaluable to the EM program and will go on to strengthen our future work efforts across the EM complex" she stated.



"ETTP by the Numbers." From Energy.gov.



DOE and ORSSAB Attend National Cleanup Workshop

By Belinda Price, ORSSAB Chair



Belinda Price at DOE's "Science of Safety" exhibit on display during the 2016 National Cleanup Workshop.

Leadership from both OREM and ORSSAB participated in the 2016 National Cleanup Workshop held this year on September 14–15 in Alexandria, Virginia. The annual event hosted by the Energy Communities Alliance brought together more than 500 attendees, including leadership from DOE, contractors, state and local government officials, tribal leaders, and other community stakeholder and advisory groups.

The Oak Ridge site was well represented. Rep. Fleischmann (Tenn.) gave a presentation on the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, which he chairs. Sue Cange, manager of OREM, and Ken Reuter, president of UCOR (DOE's local cleanup contractor), gave presentations on EM's successes. Dr. Shari Meghreblian, deputy commissioner for TDEC, took part in a panel focusing on regulatory approaches that enable cleanup progress, and Ron Woody, Roane County executive, participated in a panel on building the next generation of the EM workforce. Common among all their talks was an overarching message on partnering and communication as the keys to success.

The opening keynote address featured David Klaus, DOE's Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance, who discussed DOE's



THE WHAT ON "WIPP"

- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, known as "WIPP," is a DOE facility located outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico, that began disposal operations in 1999.
- The facility is a deep geologic repository designed to store transuranic or "TRU" waste. The nation's TRU waste consists largely of clothing, tools, and other debris contaminated with transuranic elements, which are man-made elements with atomic numbers greater than uranium.
- TRU waste is stored in canisters at generator sites across the country and shipped to WIPP.
- There are two categories of TRU waste stored at WIPP, remote handled (RH) and contact handled (CH). CH TRU waste can be safely handled in containers by workers. RH TRU waste requires additional shielding and safety measures for handling. The majority of TRU waste at WIPP is CH TRU waste. Only about 4% is RH TRU waste.
- WIPP's disposal rooms are mined from deep salt beds and reside 2,150 feet below
 the earth's surface. Bedded salt provides an ideal medium for long-term storage of
 radioactive waste as its formations are geologically stable, impermeable by water,
 and easily mined.
- The facility has not conducted disposal activities since February of 2014, due to two separate incidents, one a salt haul truck fire and the other a radiological release. WIPP's closure relates largely to improving underground air quality and ventilation systems at the facility.
- Resuming normal operations at WIPP is a high priority for DOE as the facility is the nation's only repository for TRU waste.

Read more about WIPP's recovery at www.wipp.energy.gov.

focus areas for ensuring the continued success of the cleanup program. He highlighted recent improvements in project management, but further stressed the need to establish long-term financing for cleanup obligations. He addressed the situation of an aging workforce and the need to recruit and maintain new workers. He also looked further afield to a growing need for new technologies to aid in tackling DOE's remaining work scope, much of which presents tough challenges for the cleanup program.

Monica Regalbuto, Asst. Secretary for DOE's EM program, presented on current priorities and challenges for the large-scale cleanup efforts underway at EM sites across the nation. Her talk highlighted opportunities for technology development and reiterated the need for technological advancements, such

as robotics and prosthetics, to make the work of EM safer for its workforce. To accompany this initiative, DOE set up a booth in the exhibit hall focusing on the "science of safety."

One of the most popular panels at the workshop featured a status update on "EM's National TRU Program and WIPP Recovery." The reopening of WIPP, a DOE facility located outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico, is one of DOE's highest priorities and of great importance to the EM community as a whole since it is the only facility that can receive TRU waste.

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New Members Join the Cause for Environmental Cleanup

Nine new members were appointed to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, bringing the group's total to 21 members and two non-voting student representatives who will meet to consider key issues for cleanup in Oak Ridge. Each brings to the board their unique experiences and shared enthusiasm for community enrichment.

Kathryn Bales is a senior nuclear engineering student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT), pursuing a career as a medical physicist. She is set to graduate from UT in May and is currently preparing for a doctoral program in medical physics.

Christopher Beatty works as a quality assurance engineer with Innovative Design Inc., which provides support for the U.S. ITER project at ORNL. He previously held positions with Jacobs Technology, NASA, the U.S. Space Army Missile Defense Command in Huntsville, Alabama, and the UT Space Institute in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Rosario Gonzalez manages the cafeteria at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oak Ridge, where she has been employed since 1986. She previously worked as a secretary, earning her

Secretarial Academy Certification in Torreón, Mexico.



New ORSSAB members participate in summer orientation. From left: student Gabrielle McAllister and board members Rosario Gonzalez, Kathryn Bales, Eddie Holden, and Rudy Weigel.

Eddie Holden is a retired transportation logistics manager. He previously worked with OREM for 10 years, and prior to that for 31 years with Yellow Freight in various locations across the U.S.

Deni Sobek is a science teacher at Oak Ridge High School. She specializes in courses for human anatomy and physiology as well as environmental science.

Fred Swindler retired as the vice

president of IsoRay Medical Inc. He continues to act as a consultant in

regulatory
affairs for the
Washingtonbased company, which
provides
innovative
approaches
to cancer
treatment
and diagnosis
through pro-

prietary medical isotope technologies.

Venita Thomas is an occupational safety and health specialist with Alliant Corp., which provides services to ORNL. She previously worked at DOE's Savannah River Site as an environmental compliance consultant.

Rudy Weigel is a retired industrial hygienist who previously worked for Concurrent Technologies Corp. and prior to that with Bechtel Jacobs and Pacific Western Technologies, both in Oak Ridge. He has extensive experience as a bioenvironmental engineer, environmental scientist, and hazardous waste program coordinator.

Phil Yager is the Anderson County commissioner for District 8 in Oak Ridge. He is a retired investment services manager who worked as a vice president for Goelzer Investment Management in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is an active volunteer and community leader in Oak Ridge. He serves on several boards and supports a number of civic organizations in addition to holding a seat on the site-specific advisory board.

The new additions have been eager to engage in board activities. They participated in orientation sessions and site tours during July as well as attended the board's annual planning meeting in August. The new group convened for its first full board meeting in September to consider the future of ETTP in a discussion of "Vision 2020" planning.



New members (from left) Venita Thomas, Kathryn Bales, Christopher Beatty, Fred Swindler, Eddie Holden, and Deni Sobek at the September board meeting.



Board Officers Elected for FY17

ORSSAB held its final meeting of FY16 in September and elected new officers to usher in the FY17 term.

The board voted to re-elect Belinda Price as chair for the FY17 term. During her prior term as chair, Price



represented Oak Ridge and the advisory board at several environmental and waste management conferences, presented ORSSAB's accomplishments and priorities to

EM leadership at two EM SSAB chairs meetings, and presided over numerous board meetings. She joined the board in 2013 and has more than 30 years of experience in environmental

investigation and environmental remediation as a geologist, hydrogeologist, and project manager. She currently works as a senior hydrogeologist with Alliant Corp.

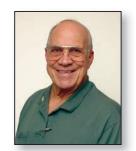
Dennis Wilson is the newly appoint-



ed vice chair for FY17. He joined the board in 2015 as a retired technology manager previously with JohnsonDiversey Products (now Sealed Air). In addition to a

nearly 40-year career in technology and intellectual property management, Wilson worked early on as a resin and polymer chemist, for which he was awarded seven global patents. Dave Hemelright will resume his responsibilities as board secretary, a position he held for the previous year. A dedicated officer, Hemelright also served for two years as a past chair and one year as vice chair. He joined

ORSSAB in 2011 and has participated in numerous workshops, conferences, and public meetings. He works as the K-12 educational planner for Kaatz, Binkley, Jones &



Morris Architects Inc. His background includes 20 years as a construction project manager, as well as 10 years in maintenance management in retail and K-12 public schools.



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

P.O. Box 2001, EM-942 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 www.energy.gov/ORSSAB

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ORSSAB Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 6 p.m.

EM & Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 26, 6 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted—

Meetings are held at the DOE Information Center

1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

ABBREVIATIONS

DOE — Department of Energy

EM — Environmental Management

EPA — Environmental Protection Agency

ETTP — East Tennessee Technology Park

OREM — Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management

ORNL — Oak Ridge National Laboratory

ORR — Oak Ridge Reservation

ORSSAB — Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

TDEC — Tennessee Department of Environment and

Conservation

Y-12 — Y-12 National Security Complex





