



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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November 24, 2009

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## **Recommendation to Endorse and Support a Stewardship Workshop**

When the mission of the DOE Environmental Management (EM) Program is complete it is imperative that perpetual stewardship plans and funding are in place to protect remediated waste-in-place sites basically forever. Therefore, we recommend that DOE endorse and support a stewardship workshop through active participation that includes representatives from EM and Legacy Management, the EM Site Specific Advisory Boards, and where possible state and local governmental officials. We also request that a point of contact be identified at EM Headquarters to coordinate the logistics of such a workshop.

The desired goals for this workshop are an understanding among all participants of the responsibilities of long-term stewardship (LTS), how it will be funded, what records must be kept and where, and what immediate and LTS plans will be implemented. The communities that support the EM program base their willingness upon trust in the Federal government to fulfill what is necessary to protect human health and the environment near these sites.

In 1999, a two-day workshop on stewardship for remediated sites was held in Oak Ridge. It brought together some 100 stakeholders from around the DOE complex.

As a primary concern, the workshop participants identified public involvement in LTS and development of site-specific stewardship plans. The need to institutionalize stewardship by the establishment of a DOE policy and the pursuit of legally binding agreements was mentioned in six of ten next steps for stewardship. Issue papers that further evaluated the next ten steps of stewardship were developed as a result of the workshop. Funding and information management were also recognized as vital to the effectiveness of LTS.

Since that time, LTS responsibility for closure sites is in the hands of the Office of Legacy Management. Responsibility for LTS at sites with ongoing missions is currently unknown and the aforementioned issues remain unresolved.

We believe it is time to have another national workshop to review the status of stewardship activities at closure sites and at sites with ongoing missions.

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Sincerely,



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Ron Murphree, Chair  
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board



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Darryl Bonner, Chair  
ORSSAB Stewardship Committee

cc:

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