



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

2016 Annual Planning Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved August 6, 2016, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) met for the 2016 Annual Planning Meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2016, at the Tremont Lodge & Resort, located at 7726 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway in Townsend, Tennessee.

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 2016.
- Begin development of the FY 2017 work plan.

The meeting was facilitated by Jenny Freeman, StrataG. A copy of the meeting agenda is included in Attachment 1.

Members Present

Kathryn Bales
Christopher Beatty
Rosario Gonzalez
David Hemelright
Eddie Holden

Howard Holmes
Greg Paulus
Belinda Price
Mary Smalling
Fred Swindler

Venita Thomas
Ed Trujillo
Phil Yager
Rudy Weigel

Members Absent

Leon Baker
Richard Burroughs
Martha Deaderick
Mike Ford
Elizabeth Ross
Deni Sobek
Dennis Wilson

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Dave Adler, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)
Sue Cange, Manager for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) and ORSSAB DDFO
Jeff Crane, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)
Jenny Freeman, Meeting Facilitator, StrataG
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)

Others Present

Ashley Huff, ORSSAB Support Office
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office

2 members of the public were present.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Price opened the meeting by welcoming new and returning board members and introducing DOE liaisons and regulators. She reviewed the board's mission statement and outlined the purpose of the 2016 Annual Planning Meeting as an opportunity for board members to learn about upcoming cleanup priorities from DOE and regulators as well as an occasion for the board to provide input to DOE on the development of ORSSAB's FY 2017 Work Plan. She encouraged all members to participate in the proceedings by asking questions and sharing ideas.

Ms. Cange briefly introduced the new members appointed to the board in July 2016. New members present at the 2016 Annual Planning Meeting were: Kathryn Bales, nuclear engineering student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Christopher Beatty, quality assurance engineer with Innovative Design, Inc.; Rosario Gonzalez, cafeteria manager at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oak Ridge; Eddie Holden, retired transportation and logistics manager, formerly of OREM; Fred Swindler, consultant for IsoRay Medical, Inc.; Venita Thomas, occupational safety and health specialist with Alliant Corp.; Rudy Weigel, retired industrial hygienist; Phil Yager, recently appointed Anderson county commissioner. A ninth new member, Deni Sobek, Oak Ridge High School teacher, was not present. Formal introductions for new board members and student representatives will take place at the September 14, 2016, ORSSAB monthly meeting.

Ms. Freeman reviewed the meeting objectives (listed above) and established three keys for success. Board members should: (1) listen, (2) learn, and (3) participate. Ms. Freeman alleviated any insecurities board members might have in engaging unfamiliar scientific and technical material. She advocated active participation as part of a "learning process" and encouraged new members to "wade into" the information being presented.

DDFO Comments

Ms. Cange helped to orient new members to ORSSAB by providing a general introduction to the mission, vision, and goals of OREM's cleanup program in Oak Ridge.

Her presentation (Attachment 2) outlined three near-term visions:

- Vision 2016—The safe and successful demolition and removal of all five gaseous diffusion building at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). Vision 2016 is on schedule for completion in August 2016. A celebration is planned for August 30, 2016. Board members are invited to attend and should expect further details via email.
- Vision 2020—A goal to clean up the remaining portion of ETTP and reindustrialize the site.
- Vision 2024—An initiative to expand cleanup work to the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) and address mercury contamination.

She also reviewed OREM's current near-term priorities:

- To complete cleanup of ETTP and proceed with reindustrialization, as well as meet historic preservation commitments at the site.
- To complete direct disposition of the U-233 material at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and begin the processing campaign.
- To complete contact- and remote-handled transuranic (TRU) debris processing.
- To construct and operate the TRU Sludge Test Facility.
- To complete planning for waste disposition and, if appropriate, preliminary design of a new Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF).
- To continue design and complete construction of the Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12.
- To continue implementation of the Groundwater Strategy.
- To reduce risk and stabilize contaminated facilities and maintain critical infrastructure.

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

Ms. Price asked about board participation in the upcoming celebration to commemorate the achievement of Vision 2016. Will board members be able to attend the event planned at the K-27 demolition site on August 30, 2016? Ms. Cange said that board members had already been invited and notified via email. Reminders will also be sent to the board. All of ORSSAB's members are welcome and encouraged to attend. ORSSAB staff will notify the board with further information via email.

Mr. Trujillo asked if DOE will truly "walk away" from the ETTP site at the end of 2020. Ms. Cange explained that some areas at the site will require DOE to provide security or continue inspections, but for the most part, cleanup will be done and land transfers will be finalized with the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, or CROET, a non-profit which oversees commercial sale of the ETTP property. Ms. Cange added that there are ongoing groundwater actions at ETTP that could affect DOE's presence at the site, but those decisions cannot be made until ongoing studies are complete.

Mr. Weigel asked if ETTP will be categorized as a greenfield site or a brownfield site. Ms. Cange said that the ETTP site is categorized as a brownfield site and slated for restricted industrial use only.

Board Mission and Accomplishments

Board Chair Belinda Price reviewed the board's mission statement and discussed the board's accomplishments for FY 2016 (Attachment 3).

The board:

- Submitted three recommendations to DOE.
- Submitted comments to DOE on the K-25 Virtual Museum.
- Approved two EM SSAB chairs recommendations as a result of collaboration among the eight site-specific advisory boards during annual conferences or "chairs meetings." (The eight site-specific advisory boards housed under DOE's EM program are collectively known as the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board and referred to as the EM SSAB).
- Hosted the 2016 EM SSAB Spring Chairs Meeting in Oak Ridge, which brought together representatives from DOE Headquarters (HQ) and from the eight local advisory boards around the nation.
- Participated in an EM SSAB chairs working group to address a number of charges for the chairs to focus on for the coming year. The first charge the group is taking on is developing a white paper for inclusion in the transition materials DOE prepares for the next administration. The document will highlight the EM SSAB and the priorities, issues, and perceived challenges of each individual advisory board.
- Took part in OREM's annual Community (Budget) Workshop. ORSSAB Secretary Dave Hemelright presented the board's recommendations on the FY 2018 OREM budget request.
- Represented ORSSAB at the 2016 Waste Management Symposium, in which Oak Ridge was selected as a feature site.
- Completed a number of public outreach goals.
- Attended a number of national meetings and conferences.
- Participated in a variety of special events and site tours.

Board Operations

Prior to the meeting, board members were asked to respond to a survey about board operations (included in Attachment 1). Ms. Freeman provided summary points of the group's answers to each question.

Results of 2016 Board Member Survey

1. *Did you like the changes made in the structure of your meeting schedule with shorter meetings, a dinner meeting, tours, etc.?*

Ms. Freeman reported that overall board members felt that the changes in meeting structure were effective. Some members advocated for more dinner meetings or other social opportunities.

2. *What kind of information do you need to make you comfortable with an issue?*

Ms. Freeman reported that adequate background knowledge and hands-on experience was critical. Board members reported that the biggest challenge for them was being able to participate in all three steps related to a given issue (i.e., the presentation, tour, and discussion).

3. *What steps should we put in place to ensure that each issue has a sufficient number of board members involved?*

Ms. Freeman reported that members supported the use of issue managers to take the initiative on key topics but emphasized the need to respect other members' time in scheduling additional commitments.

4. *What is the one thing that would encourage you to become involved in one or two issue groups?*

Ms. Freeman reported that the issues themselves were the greatest factor in board member engagement.

5. *What would you like for the board to do to make your participation more active and engaged?*

Ms. Freeman reported that members showed particular interest in issues with strong community relevance and expressed the desire to demonstrate the value of those issues within the community through some form of public outreach.

Additional Comments:

Mr. Adler stressed the implementation of a new sequence for meetings (from formal presentation, to site tour, to follow-on committee discussion) as being tremendously beneficial to the board.

Mr. Paulus said the inclusion of site tours has been invaluable to increasing knowledge and raising awareness of key issues. He encourage new board members to participate in these activities in the upcoming year.

Ms. Price encouraged board members to take an active role as issue managers for at least two topics on the work plan. She said the goal in utilizing issue managers was essentially to have a leader or group of leaders who would cover all (3) aspects of a given topic, including the board presentation, tour, and follow-on committee discussion, and ultimately lead the effort on drafting a recommendation on the issue.

Mr. Trujillo stressed the importance of board recommendations and encouraged new members to become involved in the process early. He explained that working in groups helped alleviate concerns over the complexity of material being considered. He also noted that teleconferencing for small group discussions has worked well in the past and could be utilized to aid in the recommendation process in the future.

Ms. Cange emphasized the role of ORSSAB's subcommittee, the EM & Stewardship Committee, as an avenue for more in-depth discussion on work plan topics.

Work Plan Topics and Discussion

Ms. Noe reported—

Each year the annual meeting provides an opportunity for DOE and regulators to discuss possible topics for the upcoming fiscal year and for ORSSAB to make suggestions for DOE to consider in developing a

work plan. Following the meeting, DOE will develop the board's FY 2017 Work Plan, or schedule of meetings, based on all of the input provided. (See the Flowchart in Attachment 1). The list of topics for FY 2017 should be available prior to the September 14, 2016, board meeting. The goal is for a work plan to be signed into effect, by both Sue Cange and ORSSAB's chair, by the start of the fiscal year in October.

DOE Topics

Mr. Adler presented DOE's suggested topics (Attachment 4).

DOE's FY 2017 topics for ORSSAB to consider are:

- Input on reuse and historic preservation activities at ETPP.
- 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 FY 2019 budget development.

Mr. Hemelright asked about U-233 disposition and the timeline for completion. Ms. Cange said that direct dispositioning would be completed in 2017. Some of the material needs to be downblended before it can be shipped, and the schedule for that initiative depends on congressional funding. A reasonable estimate would be an early 2020 completion for the downblending campaign.

Mr. Yager asked about plans for an airport at the ETPP site. If that plan proceeds, would it affect demolition work? Mr. Adler said if the airport is built, several buildings will be under the footprint, and roadways will need rerouting. Significant changes to the site would be required.

Mr. Trujillo asked if CROET had ever made a presentation to the board. Mr. Adler said that he meets regularly with CROET and would try to determine if they would be agreeable to addressing the board. He suggested the organization might prefer an informal discussion over a presentation.

TDEC Topics

Mr. Czartoryski provided TDEC's suggested topics (Attachment 5):

TDEC recommended the following areas where ORSSAB's comments and recommendations would be beneficial:

- Sufficient disposal capacity for future Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-generated waste (commonly known as CERCLA waste)—Mr. Czartoryski suggested ORSSAB might address the potential location of a new onsite facility, volume reduction technologies, and additional offsite and onsite disposal options (slides 3-6).
- Processing and disposition of TRU waste—Mr. Czartoryski addressed Trench 13 as well as plans for the TRU Sludge Processing Facility (slides 7-8).
- Assessments of Groundwater—Mr. Czartoryski supported modeling activities and DOE's efforts to construct a regional groundwater flow model. He advocated for greater implementation of groundwater remedies following several treatability studies (slides 9-12).
- Mercury Remediation—Mr. Czartoryski addressed releases of mercury from Y-12 and plans for the Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12 (slides 13-14).

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

Ms. Thomas asked about the board's relationship to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA).

Mr. Czartoryski explained that all board involvement on Oak Ridge cleanup was a provision of the FFA.

Ms. Cange clarified that the board provides input to DOE rather than the operation of the FFA. The board does not direct regulator involvement or agency interactions, for example.

Mr. Yager asked for more information on volume reduction at the existing onsite disposal facility, known as the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMWMF). Is EMWMF being filled efficiently?

Ms. Cange acknowledged that there have been some concerns in the past from regulators and the Inspector General as to efficiency, such as on the use of "clean fill" rather than contaminated soils. She stated that significant improvements have been made in the last five years by DOE's current contractor. EMWMF is being managed more efficiently and other facilities are being better utilized than previously. Mr. Czartoryski supported Ms. Cange's comments and acknowledged the improvements over the last five years.

Ms. Price asked about the mention of an ongoing treatability study. Could this be a topic for the board to consider? Ms. Cange said a significant study will occur at ETTP to help with future decisions on groundwater at the site. The board would be informed on the progress of that study.

Ms. Price also asked if the Mercury Treatment Facility planned for Y-12 would be in place and operational before any demolition work begins on Y-12's excess facilities. Ms. Cange said that, yes, that is the plan. DOE wanted to address potential excess mercury releases that could occur during demolition, so the water treatment facility will be completed prior to major demolition activity.

Mr. Beatty asked about the working relationship between DOE, EPA, and TDEC. Do the agencies work together to decide milestones and determine priorities? Ms. Cange explained that DOE is responsible for performing the cleanup work, but EPA and TDEC are DOE's regulators. There are different kinds of agreements in place with each agency. An FFA agreement establishes milestones and directs cleanup work. There are some additional (non-FFA) agreements in place with the State of Tennessee related to the removal of certain kinds of waste in storage on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

EPA Topics

Mr. Crane discussed EPA's topics (Attachment 6).

EPA recommended the following areas for ORSSAB to address in FY 2017:

- DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) Near Term Groundwater Projects—Mr. Crane mentioned treatability studies the board might be interested in reviewing (see slides 3-5).
- DOE ORR Groundwater Strategy—Mr. Crane addressed cleanup milestones for groundwater, key policies on groundwater restoration, and the need for further characterization and cleanup decisions on 35 identified plumes (slides 6-9).
- DOE ORR Intermediate Term Project Planning—Mr. Crane provided additional information on soil and groundwater remediation efforts and advised the board to review existing information on groundwater plumes (slides 10-17).
- Effective DOE ORR Community Outreach Activities—Mr. Crane stressed the need for DOE's active involvement with the community and continued provision of project-specific community outreach plans, like the one created for EMDF (slide 18).

After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:

Mr. Yager asked for an explanation of the term “plume.” Mr. Crane explained that plumes are dissolved contamination in groundwater that is above the level established for safe drinking water.

Mr. Trujillo asked about the mention of DNAPLs or “dense non-aqueous phase liquids,” a term for contaminants that are denser than water and do not dissolve in water. Is there a treatability study for that? Mr. Crane said that is what the treatability study for ETTP will address. Mr. Trujillo asked if the board could be briefed on the assessment. Mr. Adler said the board could have a briefing.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the meeting facilitator invited board member suggestions on additional FY 2017 topics:

Ms. Price requested a presentation on FFA Appendices E and J to better understand cleanup priorities and scheduling. Ms. Cange suggested a presentation on how baseline planning will sync with the FFA milestones. Ms. Price said that would be beneficial.

Mr. Paulus asked about flexibility in the work plan. Can the board continue to request alterations after the work plan is developed? Ms. Cange explained that the work plan is a living document and can sometimes change or be rearranged. Occasionally, the schedule gets rearranged based on speaker availability, for example. However, the work plan is developed for the entire year and reflects topics important to DOE and relevant to the current work scope. Since the number of monthly presentations is set, new topics would require an existing topic to be removed, so drastic changes to the work plan are unlikely. Supplemental information could be added to a committee meeting, however.

Implementation of Work Plan

Ms. Noe reported—

Ms. Noe reviewed ORSSAB’s process for implementing its work plan (for reference, see the 2016 Work Plan in Attachment 1). Prior to the board meetings each month, the Executive Committee meets to review the work plan topic and discuss board business. On the second Wednesday of each month, ORSSAB holds a formal board meeting, which typically includes a presentation on the work plan topic to provide a general background and introduction for the board. Afterwards, a site tour is arranged to give board members “hands-on” experience with the issue. Following the site tour, the board’s EM & Stewardship Committee meets, generally on the fourth Wednesday of the month, for more in-depth discussion. The committee meetings (and issue managers) help guide the board in the process of making recommendations.

She also noted additional opportunities for supplemental training. In the past, board members expressed interest in a presentation on the Federal Advisory Committee Act, or FACA, which governs all of DOE’s site-specific advisory boards across the nation. HQ is currently updating the FACA materials, and an HQ-led training session could be arranged if the board would like one. Another option would be an informational session on the FFA and its appendices and milestones.

If the board is interested in supplemental training opportunities, staff will need to be notified so that arrangements can be made. Once the FY 2017 Work Plan has been established, a sign-up sheet with options for issue managers and supplemental training will be distributed. Board members are encouraged to sign-up for issues and list preferences for training at that time.

Board Business

Mr. Osborne (standing in for Ms. Smalling) presented a slate of candidates for board officers for FY 2017. The nominations are as follows:

Chair: Belinda Price

Vice Chair: Dennis Wilson

Secretary: Dave Hemelright.

A formal vote will take place at the September 14, 2016, meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Price thanked everyone for participating and contributing to a successful planning meeting. She hoped the board's new members gained insights into the board's proceedings and looked forward to working with everyone throughout the upcoming year.

Ms. Cange added her thanks to the group for participating. She reiterated the board's importance to DOE. Continued efforts have been made to improve the board over the years, and she hoped to continue a vibrant and mutually beneficial relationship with ORSSAB in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Attachments (6) to these minutes are available on request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the August 6, 2016, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Dave Hemelright, Secretary

Belinda Price, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
BP/ach

September 16, 2016