

OAK RIDGE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Remediating, Modernizing, Reindustrializing

The Oak Ridge Reservation is home to three campuses that have a rich history of research, innovation, and scientific discovery that shaped the course of the world. Unfortunately, today, despite their vitally important missions, they are hindered by environmental legacies remaining from past operations.

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), and East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) house legacy facilities and waste dating back to 1942—when uranium was enriched during the World War II Manhattan Project.

The Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM), a U.S. Department of Energy field site created in the late 1980s, was formed to address and remove these diverse legacies and risks to protect the region's health and environment, ensure the continuation of vital federal missions, and make clean land available for future use.

REMEDIATION

OREM's cleanup process focuses on protecting the health and safety of East Tennessee's environment, workers, and residents by removing old, contaminated facilities and addressing affected soil and groundwater on the Department of Energy's 33,000-acre Oak Ridge Reservation.



MODERNIZATION

OREM enables the progress of ongoing national security, energy, and science missions by making way for site modernization and giving clean land new life to house those vital federal missions.

REINDUSTRIALIZATION

As OREM completes cleanup projects, its reindustrialization program works to transfer property and facilities to the private sector—creating new opportunities for economic growth in Oak Ridge.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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FINISHING THE JOB SAFELY

OREM is committed to completing cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation, leaving the following sites ready for private sector use or to meet continuing or new federal missions.

East Tennessee Technology Park

Demolishing the former **K-25 gaseous diffusion plant** and onsite cleanup is anticipated to be completed by 2020, if a consistent level of funding is available for the next four years. The land will be transferred to the private sector for use as an industrial park—now known as the East Tennessee Technology Park. The conclusion of site cleanup will mark the first successful cleanup of a uranium enrichment complex in the world.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The **nation's supply of Uranium-233** is housed in Oak Ridge, and OREM is responsible for dispositioning that material either directly or after processing. The conclusion of the project will result in millions of dollars in savings annually from eliminating the high level of security required to oversee the material. OREM is also charged with removing the old, contaminated facilities from the central campus area.

A **large inventory of transuranic debris and sludge** was produced during decades of research and operations in Oak Ridge. OREM is responsible for processing the debris at the Transuranic Waste Processing

Center and treating the sludge at a facility that will be built at a later date. The project's completion will fulfill OREM's commitment to the State of Tennessee to remove all transuranic waste stored on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Y-12 National Security Complex

Before large-scale demolition of buildings can begin, OREM must first **construct a mercury treatment facility** to reduce concentrations in surface waters and capture mercury disturbed during cleanup. Following demolition, OREM will remove the mercury that was trapped in the soil and groundwater beneath these large structures.

Continued cleanup and disposal of these facilities will require the construction of an additional disposal facility to contain waste in a safe and environmentally sound way. The current facility near Y-12 is projected to reach its capacity in the early 2020s. A **new Environmental Management Disposal Facility** will be needed in advance of the current facility reaching its capacity to ensure waste is disposed in the most efficient way.

Economic Impact Quick Facts*

OREM is critical to economic growth and community development. OREM and its contractors contribute significantly to the Oak Ridge regional economy, adding high quality jobs and boosting local tax revenues.

6,200 Jobs with an average salary of \$51,000

Nearly **\$15 Million** in local and state tax revenues generated in the Oak Ridge region of Anderson, Knox, and Roane Counties

\$545 Million added to Tennessee's GDP

*Source: Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, Economic Impact Analysis. The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. December 2015. Figures include direct and indirect jobs/benefits.



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