



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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## *Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

### **Approved October 12, 2016, Meeting Minutes**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, beginning at 6 p.m. A video of the meeting was made and may be viewed by contacting ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or (865) 241-4584. The presentation portion of the video is available on the board's YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos).

#### **Members Present**

Leon Baker  
Kathryn Bales  
Christopher Beatty  
Richard Burroughs  
Mike Ford  
Martha Deaderick  
Rosario Gonzalez  
David Hemelright  
Belinda Price  
Deni Sobek  
Mary Smalling (via telephone)

Fred Swindler  
Venita Thomas  
Ed Trujillo  
Rudy Weigel  
Dennis Wilson

#### **Members Absent**

Eddie Holden  
Howard Holmes<sup>1</sup>  
Greg Paulus  
Elizabeth Ross<sup>1</sup>  
Phil Yager<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Second consecutive absence

#### **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 OREM  
Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 (via telephone)  
Jay Mullis, Deputy Manager for OREM and ORSSAB DDFO  
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate DDFO, DOE-OREM  
Robert Storms (for Kristof Czartoryski), Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

#### **Others Present**

Wendy Cain, DOE-OREM  
Ashley Huff, ORSSAB Support Office  
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office

Three members of the public were present.

#### **Liaison Comments**

**Ms. Cange** – Ms. Cange has accepted an interim position at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM. Mark Whitney, who formerly filled the role, has taken a job in the private sector. Jay Mullis, OREM's Deputy Manager, will assume the role of acting manager during Ms. Cange's absence. He has already taken over as ORSSAB's DDFO.

**Mr. Mullis –**

- In regards to program funding, OREM is in a continuing resolution through December 9, 2016, that is sufficient to cover all current operations and initiatives.
- With the demolition and removal of Building K-27 in August at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), OREM completed its goals for Vision 2016. The local program is now focused on Vision 2020, which aims to complete the remaining cleanup work at ETTP by 2020.
- OREM has recently undergone several key administrative reorderings. A new organization chart has been issued (see Attachment 1).

**Ms. Jones –** Ms. Jones updated the board on the status of the land transfer deed on the former Powerhouse, Duct Island, and K-1007-P1 Pond Area at ETTP. The document was signed by the EPA division director and is being processed by DOE. It will transfer 662 of 1400 acres of land for reindustrialization.

**Mr. Storms –** No comment.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Brady, a resident of Oak Ridge, updated the board on the status of interactions with DOE and the group of residents near Tuskegee Drive who recently expressed concerns for their groundwater wells. Mr. Brady reported that since last month the group has been in contact with both Brian Henry and Dave Adler. He said the residents will meet with Mr. Henry and Mr. Adler in person on October 21, 2016.

**Presentation**

Jay Mullis, OREM's Deputy Manager and ORSSAB's new DDFO, delivered a presentation on the "State of the Oak Ridge EM Program" (Attachment 1). Mr. Mullis discussed administrative changes, recent accomplishments, and budget and priorities for the near term.

**Current Program Status**

OREM recently reorganized its administrative offices to improve efficiency and coverage. Several key changes were made, including grouping project management and project controls in the same division, adding a contracts group, combining field-centric groups into one division, and separating quality assurance into a distinct office. (See organization chart on slide 1 for more information).

OREM groups program cleanup goals into 4-year implementation periods or "visions." The expectations set for Vision 2016, to remove all five gaseous diffusion building at the ETTP site, were accomplished at the end of August 2016. The achievement was recognized across DOE's EM complex nationwide as the first time in the world that a former uranium enrichment complex successfully completed cleanup and removal of all its gaseous diffusion processing buildings. The feat totaled impressive figures, such as 4.5 million square feet demolished, 56,000 truckloads of waste shipped onsite, and 137 miles of piping removed (see slide 4). Even more impressive, the 56 thousand truckloads of waste were shipped with no injuries, due in large part to the use of DOE's private haul road, an invaluable solution (encouraged by the site-specific advisory board in the past) that has kept EM waste transportation out of public transit routes and allowed for better and safer operations overall.

Having celebrated the completion of Vision 2016, OREM is embarking on its next four-year mission for Vision 2020. Vision 2020 aims to complete the remaining cleanup work at ETTP and transfer the site for use as a private-sector industrial park. Following 2020, OREM's Vision 2024 will focus on mercury cleanup at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12).

The budget outlook for fiscal year (FY) 2017 (slide 5) sufficiently supports program goals. OREM's current enacted budget for FY 2016 is \$469.4 million. The program expects FY 2017 appropriations to exceed the president's request and fall between \$418.5 million (house mark) and \$497.7 million (senate mark). That range will allow OREM to complete all upcoming priorities.

### The Path Ahead

OREM will applying lessons learned to continue cleanup efforts and will apply the training and experience already gained during the program's transition to work at Y-12. DOE will begin projects now that will help ensure safety and compliance down the road. The Mercury Treatment Facility is an important control measure, already in the design phase, that will need to be in place before disturbing buildings and soils at Y-12, since mercury flux will likely increase as a result of those activities. OREM will also need a new onsite disposal facility. EM's current disposal facility, the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility, will reach near-capacity with waste from ETTP. By the mid-2020s when large-scale demolition is underway at Y-12, additional disposal capacity will be needed to complete cleanup.

Across the nation, DOE's management of excess facilities has recently come under scrutiny. OREM is increasing program focus on excess contaminated facilities at Y-12 and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) (slide 8). There are approximately 350 excess contaminated facilities in Oak Ridge, making up 25% of DOE's nationwide inventory. Oak Ridge is home to some of the worst of these facilities. Of the 350, 46% of those are classified as high-risk, which accounts for 40% of facilities in the high-risk category across the DOE complex. Examples include Beta 4 and the Biology Complex at Y-12. Work was initiated in 2016 on both of these. Funding will continue in FY17 to do risk reduction activities, not to be confused with decontamination and decommissioning (D&D). Risk-reduction activities include removal of hazardous material, sampling, and meeting documentation requirements. The goal of excess contaminated facilities funding will be to stabilize facilities for long-term stewardship until D&D begins.

In addition to these objectives, OREM continues to focus on several key missions (slide 11):

- Treating and disposing of transuranic waste,
- Direct dispositioning and processing of U-233,
- Surveillance and maintenance of facilities awaiting D&D,
- And life-extension programs and engineering evaluations to support critical infrastructure (e.g., for facilities in need of maintenance that must continue to operate, such as the Liquid Gaseous Waste Operations at ORNL).

OREM continues to execute DOE's Groundwater Strategy for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) (slide 12). Active groundwater removal and treatment systems are in place at all three of DOE's cleanup sites in Oak Ridge. Data collection and modeling activities in support of a calibrated regional groundwater flow model for the ORR are ongoing. The Oak Ridge program is currently completing an Offsite Groundwater Assessment Project. The work is ongoing, but preliminary data does not indicate any DOE site-related contaminants to exceed EPA drinking water standards. OREM will continue to work with TDEC and EPA on future phases of the Groundwater Strategy.

OREM is positioned for progress in FY 2017 with a comprehensive cleanup program in place for the ORR (slide 13). Generous congressional support has enabled safe and efficient operations, and with sufficient funding OREM will continue to make progress on program priorities. Key partnerships with regulators and stakeholders, such as ORSSAB, are also vital to the program's future successes.

*After the presentation, board members raised the following questions:*

Mr. Trujillo—What will happen to haul road after 2020? Mr. Mullis said that it depends on whether or not there is interest from other parties on using the road. DOE is looking for partnerships to take over the portion of the haul road that extends from ETTP to Y-12. Y-12 may be interested in using the road to transport and store materials for its Uranium Processing Facility. The State, the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, or other businesses may also have a use. Ultimately, however, EM will not need the haul road following the closure of ETTP, and the road will be abandoned if no partnerships are made.

Mr. Trujillo asked about the program budget. In terms of the best case scenario, if we receive an average between the house mark and senate mark for funding, does that amount still mean that we would fall short by \$40-50 million? Mr. Mullis said he did not believe that would be the case. In FY 2016, OREM received about \$100 million above the president's request. The president's budget is higher in FY 2017, and either the house mark or the senate mark are sufficient to meet program priorities. Obviously the senate mark is higher and thus preferable; it would include more appropriations in excess facilities, for instance.

Mr. Trujillo asked about planned D&D for excess facilities. Will D&D activities go beyond 2024? Mr. Mullis explained that the D&D at ORNL and Y-12 will start in 2024. The D&D at ETTP will finish up by 2020. There will be groundwater-related and post-closure activities, but the plan is to have ETTP close between 2020-2024 and move the workforce over to Y-12 to begin D&D and restoration activities in earnest.

Mr. Trujillo asked—Will the D&D for excess facilities be more difficult or more expensive than the work at ETTP? Mr. Mullis said he did not expect it to be more difficult or more expensive, but the primary concern has been that UCOR, the cleanup contractor at ETTP, cannot perform the work at Y-12. Their contract is a closure contract for ETTP which allows for some work at Y-12. So when D&D begins in earnest at Y-12, DOE will have to have gone through a new procurement and will have a new contractor. He said that another consideration is that the facilities at ETTP have all been similar to one another; they are different sizes, but the hazards within the different buildings are essentially the same. Thus, experience from the first building's demolition carried over and informed the others. When DOE shifts focus to Y-12, the contractor will encounter unfamiliar territory with different types of buildings and different hazards.

Mr. Trujillo asked if lessons learned will still play a big role in the transition to 2024. Mr. Mullis said that certain lessons on how to approach things, such as maintaining building infrastructure and awareness of falling hazards, etc., will be transportable. However, the workforce will also encounter new materials and new types of buildings.

Mr. Storms asked about surveillance and maintenance (S&M) programming. Were concerns found during those activities brought forward to the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) parties so that milestones could be reevaluated? Mr. Mullis said that if there were major issues found in the buildings that would affect the FFA, they would be disclosed. Mr. Adler explained that OREM shares all data with regulators related to how the program spends money. If it comes to maintaining compliance and avoiding discharges, those would be the highest priority and would not be flexible or put off for other priorities.

Mr. Storms also asked—If you do encounter an issue unexpectedly and your budget is already set, then would something have to come off? Mr. Adler said that such a scenario could impact some other commitment if the program needs to use funds for an unexpected problem. In that case, DOE would have to appeal to regulators for a relaxation on its commitments. Mr. Mullis explained that this scenario is unlikely. The \$5 million estimate for the S&M fund is meant to provide enough coverage so that other commitments would not be affected by any arising S&M needs.

Mr. Weigel asked if the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment (MSRE) and the Homogeneous Reactor Experiment (HRE) are in the plans for future demolition at ORNL. Mr. Mullis said that those facilities were included but that they were further in the future since they are not considered among the worst of EM's excess facilities. He added that OREM is spending some money at HRE this year to remove asbestos and get water out of the basement. At MSRE, DOE is conducting an engineering study and should get the report on that at the end of October 2016, at which time decisions can be made about what needs immediate attention and what may take longer to tackle.

Mr. Fogel, a member of the public, asked—When do you expect the proposed EM Disposal Facility (EMDF) to be constructed? Mr. Mullis said ideally the first two cells would be built by the mid-2020s, but construction was funding dependent.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **EM & Stewardship**

Mr. Trujillo reported –

- The next EM & Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at 6 p.m. Discussion will follow on the October 12, 2016, presentation on the “State of the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program.”

#### **Executive**

Ms. Price reported –

- ORSSAB would like to survey board member interest in a holiday gathering. Please respond to the email survey distributed by staff no later than October 13, 2016. Further updates on the holiday gathering will come from staff via email.
- In response to recent interactions with Oak Ridge residents (Tuskegee group) who were unable to locate the September 14, 2016, board meeting, ORSSAB has implemented changes to avoid confusion about meeting locations in the future. The board does not typically hold offsite meetings, so the September meeting was atypical. The location was noted on ORSSAB's website and online calendar in advance of the meeting, but meeting information will now be more prominently displayed. DOE has also spoken with the Tuskegee residents to address their concerns about groundwater.
- A new issue of ORSSAB's newsletter, the *Advocate*, was released in October. Electronic copies are available [online](#). Hard copies are available upon request by contacting staff at [Ashley.Huff@orem.doe.gov](mailto:Ashley.Huff@orem.doe.gov) or [Pete.Osborne@orem.doe.gov](mailto:Pete.Osborne@orem.doe.gov).
- The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at 6 p.m.

### **Announcements and Other Board Business**

- The board thanked Sue Cange for her service and wished her well in her new position as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of EM.
- The board welcomed Jay Mullis as the new DDFO of ORSSAB.
- ORSSAB's new member appointments were officially welcomed by DOE during the meeting. ORSSAB's nine new members are Kathryn Bales, Christopher Beatty, Rosario Gonzalez, Eddie Holden, Deni Sobek, Fred Swindler, Venita Thomas, Rudy Weigel, and Phi Yager.

**Alternate DDFO Report**

**Mr. Adler** – DOE looks forward to reviewing the board recommendation approved during the October 12, 2016, meeting and will prepare an appropriate response. No other recommendations are outstanding.

**Motions****9/14/16.1**

Mr. Trujillo moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016, board meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion passed **unanimously**.

**9/14/16.2**

Mr. Hemelright moved to approve the “Recommendations on the Proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility at the U.S. DOE Oak Ridge Reservation” (Attachment 2). Mr. Wilson seconded and following discussion the motion passed **unanimously**.

*During discussion Mr. Trujillo emphasized that the EM & Stewardship Committee wanted to make general recommendations regarding a new waste disposal facility and to avoid technical specifics that would be addressed elsewhere or investigated directly in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the proposed EMDF. However, in order to address technical concerns raised by Mary Anne Koltowich of the Roane County Environmental Review Board, which did not ultimately figure into the board’s recommendation, ORSSAB requests a follow-up information session from DOE regarding the RI/FS on the proposed EMDF and relevant lessons learned, such as on the use of clean fill vs. contaminated fill. Ms. Price noted that the February board meeting will feature waste disposal and would provide an appropriate occasion. She requested that Brian Henry be available for the February meeting, if at all possible.*

**Action Items***Open Action Items*

1. Mr. Adler will update Mr. Czartoryski and the board on the status of a response to TDEC’s letter concerning a request for additional EM milestones. (*Carryover from 3/9/16*). **Open.**
2. DOE will schedule a technical overview of the proposed EMDF for the February 8, 2016, monthly meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Attachments (2) to these minutes are available upon request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the October 12, 2016, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Dave Hemelright, Secretary

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

November 10, 2016