



**Environmental Management Budget
& Prioritization
Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 3 p.m.
Building 2714, Room H-22**

Members Present

Norman Mulvenon
Greg Paulus
Tom Valunas

Others Present

Dave Adler, Department of Energy (DOE)
Spencer Gross, ORSSAB Support Office
Alan Stokes, DOE

Absent

Ron Murphree
Bob Olson

The committee convened for the first time in FY 2012 to begin the process of developing a recommendation to DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management (EM) on its FY 2014 budget request to DOE Headquarters in April 2012.

Mr. Stokes began the meeting by reviewing the status of the major cleanup projects underway on the Oak Ridge Reservation. Mr. Stokes said the review was to explain the priorities DOE Oak Ridge EM has developed. The main points of his discussion are in Attachment 1.

Demolition of the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) is DOE's biggest project in Oak Ridge. UCOR, DOE's primary cleanup contractor, took over demolition of K-25 in July 2011 and is running ahead of schedule. Demolition of the building is 71 percent complete. The expected completion date is July 2014.

Mr. Paulus asked if UCOR has incentives to finish the project. Mr. Stokes said UCOR has an award fee contract, which includes areas for incentives. Mr. Mulvenon said Susan Cange, Acting Manager for EM, had said the total cost to demolish K-25 would be about \$1.375 billion. Mr. Stokes said that sounds like the baseline cost for the project, but he said it will be less than what was in the baseline set in 2011.

At Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Tank W-1A and the slab on which it rested has been removed. All that remains is contaminated soil that will be dug up and disposed in FY 2012.

Mr. Stokes said there are several Recovery Act projects underway that include the 3026 hot cell disposition and the demolition of 30 of 34 facilities. Environmental restoration of the 2000 Complex is 90 percent complete. Newly negotiated milestones for transuranic waste (TRU) disposal are on schedule.

Shipments of approximately half of the uranium-233 inventory from Building 3019 began in December 2011. Shipments should be complete by the end of 2014. The disposition of the remaining U-233 designated as Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project material will begin in FY 2013.

The main remediation issue at Y-12 National Security Complex is mercury. Some Recovery Act projects like the West End Mercury Area cleanup and the Old Salvage yard have been completed. Mr. Stokes said the big problem is mercury in and under the Alpha 4 Building. He said the building will have to be cleaned out, prepared for demolition, and then demolished to get to the contaminated soil underneath. DOE will pursue interim measures that can be completed prior to demolition.

Mr. Valunas asked if there are other buildings at Y-12 that need attention. Mr. Stokes said there are but mercury is the first priority to address. Mr. Adler said there is some concern about buildings falling into disrepair that could cause operational problems at Y-12. He said there may be a link to contaminated buildings and the ability to do work at Y-12.

Mr. Stokes showed a chart of the FY 2012 appropriation for DOE Oak Ridge EM and the President's proposed budget to Congress for FY 2013 (Attachment 1, page 7). He explained the various PBS (program baseline summaries) line items. The PBSs are divided between Defense Appropriations and D&D (decontamination & decommissioning) Funds. He said appropriated money cannot be moved from one PBS to another.

Under PBS 41/42/43, Mr. Stokes said the ETTP centrifuge surveillance and maintenance by law cannot be funded from the D&D fund. The D&D Fund is a trust fund established to clean up facilities in Portsmouth, Ohio, Paducah, Ky., and at ETTP. The D&D Fund is supported by levies on utility companies.

The major parts of the ETTP D&D are demolition of K-25 and K-27. Mr. Stokes said there may be enough money left in FY 2012 to start characterization of K-27 and still have enough money left to finish K-25 in FY 2014.

Mr. Valunas asked if federal salaries are reflected in the figures shown. Mr. Stokes said there is a third account for salaries, but it is not shown because it is not part of cleanup.

Mr. Stokes showed the guiding principles for setting project priorities (Attachment 1, page 8).

DOE Oak Ridge has not yet received guidance from headquarters to use in developing the FY 2014 budget request, but Mr. Stokes said for planning purposes DOE Oak Ridge will assume about \$420 million.

The near-term cleanup goals for Oak Ridge are:

- Continue demolition of K-25/K-27.
- Remove half of the U-233 inventory at ORNL and make final decisions on remaining nuclear material.
- Continue processing TRU debris and prepare for sludge processing.
- Continue to identify ways to address mercury releases from Y-12, including characterizing potential sources and preparing facilities for D&D.
- Reduce risk posed by nuclear materials by removing excess materials, addressing sources of groundwater contamination, and demolishing facilities in and around ORNL Central Campus.

Mr. Paulus asked about costs associated with historic preservation activities at ETTP. Mr. Adler said that would have to be factored into the budget.

Mr. Adler said there are some regulatory commitments in FY 2014 for processing sludge at the TRU Waste Processing Center (TWPC). He said there has been a lot of discussion about reducing carrying costs and the TWPC is part of that discussion. He said there is consideration of slowing down work there and using the money elsewhere, but he said there are financial and regulatory

incentives to finish the work at the TWPC. Even if the TRU waste is kept in safe storage it would still cost \$15 to \$20 million a year in surveillance and maintenance.

Mr. Mulvenon asked about the status of work at the TWPC, the shipping of waste, and when the Central Characterization Project will return. Mr. Adler said he would provide updated information to the committee.

Mr. Paulus asked if DOE's near-term goals are in chronological order. Mr. Stokes said they are in priority order.

Mr. Valunas asked what the next step is. Mr. Adler said the committee should also hear what the priorities are for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and use the information provided by all three agencies to develop a recommendation to DOE. Mr. Adler asked Mr. Gross to invite Jeff Crane with EPA and Roger Petrie, TDEC to meet with the committee in early March.

Mr. Paulus asked if there was a contingency plan for reduced budgets if the political climate changed. Mr. Stokes said planning scenarios are developed for appropriation cuts.

Action items

1. Mr. Adler will check on the status of processing and shipping waste at the TWPC and when the Central Characterization Project will return.
2. Mr. Gross will invite EPA and TDEC representatives to meet with the committee in early March.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. No next meeting time was established.

Attachments (1) are available through the ORSSAB support office.

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