



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

For Immediate Release

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Stakeholders Should Stay Involved With Cleanup Work Underway on the Oak Ridge Reservation

Oak Ridge has been synonymous with energy development, national security, and technical innovation for over 65 years. The historic significance of the Oak Ridge facilities has been well documented dating back to the 1940s, and holds an unparalleled place in our nation's history. While the importance of the Department of Energy operations has never waned, there have been unique periods where its relevance to the nation in general, and the region in particular, has never been greater. As the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) entrusted with independently providing advice on environmental management, we are convinced that this is one of those times.

As part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) recently passed by Congress, the environmental management program at Oak Ridge was awarded over \$750 million to use for accelerated cleanup work during the next two years. The ORSSAB firmly believes that Oak Ridge has laid the proper groundwork by completing project design plans such that a vast majority of work is in "shovel ready" status.

A major component of this accelerated cleanup program is the demolition of numerous facilities at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y-12, and East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly known as K-25). These facilities are typically no longer functional and present fire and environmental risks in their current state. This "footprint reduction" is intended to clear out over 1 million square feet of land for future development while substantially reducing risks to workers, the public, and the environment. This is an example whereby several positive objectives can meet at one common junction. In addition to the obvious advantages of economic stimulus and job creation, the accelerated cleanup will eliminate many high-risk legacies of the Manhattan Project and facilitate future private-sector industrial development. The list of structures to be demolished includes such notable buildings as Building 3026 at the lab, Alpha 4 at Y-12, and K-27 at East Tennessee Technology Park. Based on our understanding of the scope of work involved, we believe a truly amazing transformation can be achieved.

While the opportunities for success are apparent, the challenges of complex technical issues should not be ignored. Measures to mitigate potential for offsite contaminated groundwater transport will require careful monitoring and innovative solutions. Vigilant compliance with worker safety standards must be maintained without compromise. And of course, the public must

be properly informed and given the opportunity for input into the environmental management program. As a citizen's advisory board, we ask you the stakeholders, to join us in our endeavor to stay closely engaged and involved as the Oak Ridge Reservation pursues its environmental goals.

Steven M. Dixon, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board