



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DOE Accepts Recommendation to Develop a Site Transition Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has accepted the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board's (ORSSAB) recommendation to develop a fact sheet that outlines the steps for transferring remediated property back to its original landlords. This fact sheet will assist other DOE sites with continuing missions like Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Y-12 National Security Complex.

The recommendation was sent to the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) in June by ORSSAB, a citizen's advisory board to DOE that monitors cleanup operations on the Oak Ridge Reservation. EM is responsible for cleaning up areas in the DOE complex that have been impacted by radioactive or hazardous wastes.

In Oak Ridge, EM is cleaning up areas at both ORNL and Y-12 that are contaminated, but when that work is completed those areas will be returned to the original property owners, which could be the DOE Offices of Science or Nuclear Energy or the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The fact sheet that ORSSAB recommended is modeled after one that the DOE Office of Legacy Management uses to guide site transition from cleanup to complete closure. Legacy Management is responsible for long-term monitoring of sites that have been remediated, closed, and have no other missions. In many cases, remediated areas will have waste protected in place and those protections must be maintained long-term to ensure the safety of human health and the environment.

The fact sheet describes the site transition process, including a site transition plan, long-term surveillance and maintenance, communication with the public, and documentation.

ORSSAB's Stewardship Committee, which drafted the recommendation, has been concerned for some time that, up until now, there has been no similar process for transferring remediated properties back to original landlords at ongoing mission sites like Oak Ridge, Los Alamos National Lab, and the Savannah River Site. The Stewardship Committee wanted to make sure that the landlords had similar long-term responsibilities caring for remediated properties much the same as the Office of Legacy Management has for closed sites.

In his response letter to ORSSAB, Frank Marcinowski, the DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technical and Regulatory Support said, “We fully accept this recommendation and have initiated efforts to draft a fact sheet that provides, as you suggested, content similar to the ‘Legacy Management Site Transition Process upon Cleanup Completion Fact Sheet.’ We know that there are many questions about transfers to landlords other than Legacy Management, and we commend you on pursuing answers to those questions...” Marcinowski said the draft fact sheet should be ready for review by fall.

ORSSAB meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Information about the board is available on the internet at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab or by calling (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584.

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