



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Spencer Gross, 241-4584

December 30, 2010

Former Farragut Press Writer Is Vice Chair of Citizens' Advisory Group

A former columnist and sports writer for the Farragut Press is currently serving as the vice chair of a federally chartered citizens' advisory board to the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge. Kevin Westervelt is a member of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, a 20-member panel of citizens from five counties that provides advice and recommendations to DOE on its environmental cleanup operations on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

"It's a good time to be a member of ORSSAB because there are a lot of big issues, but not a lot of clear answers," says Westervelt. "There are also questions about sufficient budget allocations from DOE Headquarters to do the work that needs to be done."



Kevin Westervelt in his office in West Knoxville.

Westervelt was talking about some of the technically challenging jobs facing the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program, things like the final takedown of the K-25 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park; the removal of salts from the Molten Salt Reactor; the Building 3019/Uranium-233 Downblending Project at Oak Ridge National Lab; contamination detected in Melton Valley groundwater; demolition of surplus buildings at Y-12 National Security Complex and ORNL and any residual contamination, particularly mercury, which may be in the soil underneath.

"Maybe we, as a board, can be the vehicle to encourage DOE, EPA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to be moving together in setting priorities for Oak Ridge."

Westervelt has been a member of ORSSAB since July 2006. "I learned about the board through newspaper articles I'd seen, and I'd been involved with work going on at K-25 and knew the board was involved in the environmental management arena. I'd taken all of the graduate courses in environmental engineering at the University of Tennessee, and I saw this as a way to put that education to use."

Since joining the board Westervelt has served as the chair of the Public Outreach Committee and in FY 2010 was elected board vice chair, now in his second term in that position.

Westervelt is a native of the northwest Indiana area, Merrillville to be specific, which he says is an Indiana suburb of Chicago. He attended Purdue University earning a bachelor's degree in civil structural

engineering. After graduating he went to work for the Sargent and Lundy engineering firm working on power plant design and construction.

In the mid '80s he was promoted as a field supervisor of power plants. "After a tour of duty of about three years at a plant in downstate Illinois, in 1988 I was sent to the TVA-operated plant at Watts Bar where I worked as a consultant on the operational readiness review team. I did that until the plant was fuel loaded and operational. I had been here eight years, liked the area and had the opportunity to join Mallia Engineering in Knoxville in 1996, and then I joined Mesa Associates in 2004."

He currently is a structural department head for Mesa in charge of civil and structural engineering and architecture for government and industrial projects.

###