



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

## **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **For Immediate Release**

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### **ORSSAB and DOE Say ‘Thank You!’ to Outgoing Board Members**

The June meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) marked the retirement of five long-time members. Retiring board members Betty Jones, Ed Juarez, Gloria Mei, Ron Murphree, and Steve Stow accounted for 26 years of invaluable leadership and experience for the federally appointed citizens’ panel. ORSSAB provides independent advice and recommendations to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) program to clean up portions of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

“These individuals have served in a wide variety of leadership positions, both at the board level and committee level,” said Susan Cange, ORSSAB’s Deputy Designated Federal Officer. Cange presented them plaques in recognition of their service at their last board meeting on June 13. “They represent the best of selfless dedication to their communities.

“They’ve been instrumental in every aspect of the board’s work from drafting recommendations, helping expand the board’s outreach program, representing the board at national conferences, and spending endless hours attending meetings and providing leadership.”



Betty Jones

Jones joined the board in July 2008 and at various times served as the chair of the Public Outreach Committee, and participated on EM, Stewardship, and Board Finance & Process committees. She decided not to seek reappointment after two two-year terms. “I would like to thank ORSSAB for the opportunity to serve on the board. I have gained additional knowledge about DOE’s EM program. As a board member, and by serving on the Board Finance & Process Committee, the EM Committee, Public Outreach, and finally Stewardship, I was able to look at the different committees. I learned how the committees interacted to serve a common goal in making the public aware of DOE’s commitment in cleaning up the environment.”

Juarez is also a two-termer who decided not to seek reappointment. He plans to spend more time with another organization, Horse Haven, a group that cares for abused and neglected horses.

During FY 2012 he served as the board’s vice chair and was board secretary for two years prior to that. He has also been chair of the Board Finance & Process Committee. “I have enjoyed my time serving on the board. I have made some good friends and have met some very interesting and bright people. I have found that you don’t have to be an expert in what is happening on site, but that you have an inquiring mind and are willing to learn,” he said.



Ed Juarez

“I have been on the board four years and in a leadership position one way or another all four years. As chair of the Finance & Process Committee I learned the budgeting process and its difficulties. As secretary I

learned the importance of process and rules and keeping accurate records, and as vice chair I learned that you must be prepared to step in at a moment's notice.”

Mei was appointed to the board late in 2005 to replace a member who resigned. She's been a member of the EM Committee the entire time. “The board surely has evolved and changed the last few years,” she said, “but the basic mission has always been to provide a strong public voice in the ORR cleanup decisions. We regularly monitor the progress of ORR EM projects, ask questions, and make recommendations. I have served as the issue manager for a variety of EM Committee agenda items. Often this would involve quite some efforts in information gathering, digestion, and discussions. I was very happy and privileged to have participated and to be part of the change for the ORR.”



Gloria Mei

Murphree has been one of the most active members ever. He chaired the board for two years, chaired the EM Committee two years, has been vice chair of the Stewardship Committee, and has participated on the EM Budget & Prioritization Committee. He's also attended a number of conferences and EM SSAB Chairs' meetings.



Ron Murphree

“Serving on ORSSAB has been a very rewarding experience. Make no mistake, to be an effective board member, you have to dedicate some time and effort to study the complex issues and participate in the dialog between the board and the various agencies. But the effort is well worth it, and I have received much more than I ever hoped for. I was given the opportunity to serve in leadership positions, supported by a dedicated staff and assisted by some very smart folks who care very much about the environment and the taxpayers' money. I had the opportunity to travel to other sites and attend conferences presented by DOE EM senior leadership and other cleanup industry executives.

“I always viewed service on the board as just that – we serve on the board to provide real input and guidance to DOE on EM issues. Our duty is not to be taken lightly or without devoting the thoughtful consideration that these matters require.”

Stow brought a lot of background knowledge about the ORR when he came on the board in June 2006 after retiring as manager of the American Museum of Science and Energy. He put that background to good use in launching the effort to consolidate and collect oral histories of former scientists, executives, and workers from the Manhattan Project and Cold War era. Through the board he was instrumental in helping to establish the Center for Oak Ridge Oral History. He also served on the Public Outreach Committee and chaired the Stewardship Committee. “Serving on the board has been an opportunity to not only meet superb individuals with whom I would never otherwise cross paths, but also an opportunity to truly make a difference, often in small but significant ways, but also in larger ways.



Steve Stow

“The ability to influence projects as massive and far-reaching as those of the EM organization is unique, and the responsiveness of DOE EM is a pleasant surprise for those of us who have devoted the time and effort. Also the fact that EM can undertake important challenges not directly germane to its mission (oral history activity and other historic preservation efforts) – and do this seriously – for the community is a welcome surprise.”

These individuals will be greatly missed, but a new class of board members is scheduled to take their seats at the July 11 meeting and begin learning the issues and taking up where these folks have left off.

ORSSAB meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center in the Office of Science and Technical Information, 1 Science.gov Way on the east side of Oak Ridge, fronting the 100 block of Oak Ridge Turnpike. Additional information about the board is available on the internet at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab) or by calling (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584.

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