



Issue 37
January 2010

ADVOCATE

DOE Project Directors Provide Update on Recovery Act Work

When the Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Environmental Management (EM) Program learned it would receive \$755 million

money if we can continue to perform well," said Howell.

Now that ARRA work has been underway for more than three months, Howell, Ralph Skinner, Y-12 Deputy Federal Project Director, and Jim Kopotic, ORNL Federal Project Director, provided a status update of the various projects.

Oak Ridge National Lab

At ORNL the 3026 Building wooden structure has been prepared for demolition and should be on the ground by the end of December, according to Kopotic. Proposals are being reviewed for the 3026 hot cell demolition and the cleanout of hot cells in Buildings 2026 and 3038.



The 2000 Complex Quonset Huts at ORNL are scheduled for demolition in Spring 2010 as part of ARRA-funded work at the lab.

The 2000 Complex consists of eight buildings divided into two groups of 2000 East (six facilities) and West (two facilities). Kopotic said hazardous material abatement is underway in the 2000 Complex East with demolition scheduled to begin in March 2010.

The Tank W-1A Removal Project is slightly behind schedule because the initial bids received were "extremely high" said Howell. The contract was restructured by Bechtel Jacobs, Co., DOE's prime cleanup contractor, and put out for bid a second time. Howell said new bids have been received and are currently being evaluated.

The Bethel Valley Burial Grounds Project is a job to implement the provisions of an interim record of decision to cap Solid Waste Storage Areas 1 and 3. A small business contract has been awarded and field work is expected to begin by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair ...2

Intergovernmental Conf. ...3

New ORSSAB Officers3

Reservation Update4

Profile: Steve Stow.....5

Stakeholder's Survey6

SSAB Chairs' Meeting6

Recommendations7

EM Celebration.....7

in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, a lot of things had to happen quickly. Contracts for 23 projects had to be awarded by the end of September, and, for the most part, work on all those projects is underway. "We haven't run into any issues that were unexpected," said DOE Portfolio Manager J.T. Howell. "Considering how quickly all this happened, I think we're doing pretty well."

With the exception of Tank W-1A at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), reallocation of work from K-27 at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and some remaining contracts that need to be awarded for the ORNL Central Campus demolition projects, ARRA-related work is well underway and moving forward.

There had been some indications that Oak Ridge could receive some additional ARRA funding. "There's always a possibility of more

The Advocate is a publication of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB)—an independent, nonpartisan, volunteer citizens panel providing recommendations and advice to DOE's Environmental Management Program

continued on page 2

EM Program Requires Public Involvement

by Ron Murphree, ORSSAB Chair



Although the Cold War ended more than 20 years ago, the legacies of radioactive and chemical contamination left behind from a half century of nuclear operations will remain with us far into the future. As a citizen's advisory board, we at the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) would like to share our perspective on the key environment management issues facing DOE Oak Ridge.

To date, DOE Oak Ridge has received \$755 million in Recovery Act funds for environmental cleanup projects at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y-12, and East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). The influx of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds has created renewed

vigor into the Environmental Management (EM) mission and signaled a long-awaited acceleration to the most aggressive cleanup program in the history of the reservation.

Already the effects of the ARRA funding are visible as cleanup operations at many of the legacy facilities and waste sites are ramping up or are underway.

In addition to the economic stimulus and job creation, accelerating cleanup work on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) will reduce the landlord costs by millions annually, eliminating the high cost and risks associated with maintaining outdated, deteriorated facilities and legacy grounds.

Footprint reduction will allow the Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration to focus on their missions, enable the ongoing modernization of Y-12 and the

national laboratory, and promote future economic sustainability of ETTP as a private sector industrial park.

The current flurry of EM activities on the ORR is just the beginning of the enormous and complex cleanup task that stands before us. Long after the ARRA funding is exhausted, the cleanup of the environmental damage created by past operations will continue to require billions of dollars in future funding, innovative solutions, and persistence to complete. The real challenge will be to maintain the momentum and funding to complete the cleanup efforts and provide for long-term stewardship for generations to come.

Given the magnitude and longevity of the cleanup operations, it is imperative that we remain mindful of our mission and adhere to our most crucial priority, which is protection of public health, now and in the future. As a citizen's advisory board, we ask you, the stakeholders, to join us in our efforts to sustain the awareness and the momentum required to complete the cleanup mission in a timely, safe, and cost-effective manner.

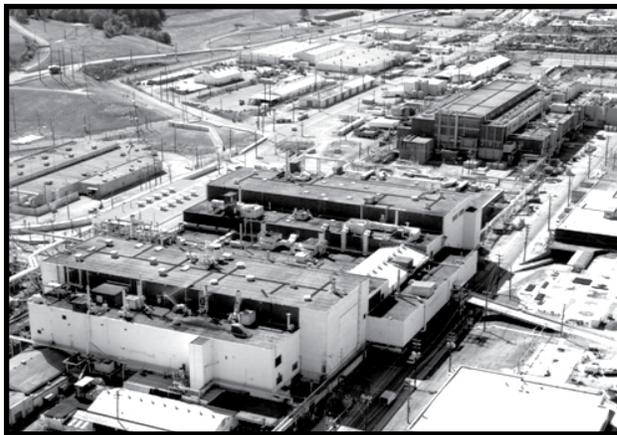
As a member of the community, your active support is essential to ensure adequate, long-term funding for DOE's Oak Ridge EM activities and continued vigilance as DOE pursues its environmental goals. Your vision and insight can help shape the decisions made today and ultimately the future of the ORR for generations to come.

ORSSAB meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge. The public is encouraged to attend, and a period is provided for public comment. For more information, see www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.

ARRA Projects Underway

continued from page 1

Other projects at the lab include the Melton Valley Monitoring Wells Project, the Transuranic Waste Processing Project, and a number of waste removal and demolition projects in the central campus of the lab. Those projects are progressing well or contracts are being evaluated.



Legacy wastes are being removed from the Alpha 5 building (foreground) and the Beta 4 Building at Y-12.

Y-12 National Security Complex

The Biology Complex Demolition Project consists of four buildings. Hazardous materials abatement work is currently underway, which is scheduled for completion by the end of December, followed by demolition of the buildings.

“Demolition of Building 9769 is scheduled to be complete by March 2011,” said Skinner, “and 9211, 9220, and 9224 by September 2011, but we hope to be finished well ahead of that time frame.”

continued on page 8

ORSSAB Members Attend Annual Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE

The eighth annual Intergovernmental Meeting with DOE was held October 21–24 in New Orleans. The meeting provides an opportunity for DOE officials and intergovernmental groups to communicate their goals and issues.

The governmental groups include the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, the State and Tribal Government Working Group, the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), and the Environmental Council of the States.

ORSSAB members have attended for the past four years to gather information relevant to cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). This year, ORSSAB Chair Ron Murphree, Public Outreach Committee Chair Maggie Owen, and board member Ted Lundy attended.

For the first time, the ORSSAB Chair was asked to participate by a giving a presentation to the NCSL's Legislative Roundtable on Environmental Management (EM) about current cleanup activities in Oak Ridge.

The meeting featured presentations and open discussions with senior officials from DOE EM. Principal topics included DOE implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, waste disposition, DOE's budget and budget process, and National Resource Damage Assessment.

Some of the future challenges ahead for EM were discussed, such as maintaining the momentum of managing projects over several decades, applying first-of-a-kind technologies, achieving footprint reductions and near term completions, and maintaining a high-quality work force.

The EM program is the largest environmental cleanup effort in the world, originally involving 2 million acres at 108 sites in 35 states.

Breakout sessions provided participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and identify their key issues through facilitated discussions on the topics of the Recovery Act, budget, energy parks, and waste management.

Dr. Inés Triay, DOE Assistant Secretary for EM, spoke on EM policy and changes in the new administration. She provided an overview of significant activities within DOE-EM, including program priorities and issues, Recovery Act implementation, budget, regulatory compliance, and the future of EM.

Of his trip, Ron said, "It is always helpful to receive information concerning the cleanup activities around the complex so that we can

better understand our place in the hierarchy of priorities.

"Footprint reduction seems to be the focus for this year, and headquarters has set ambitious goals for reducing the area under its control. Knowing that, we need to focus on how the implementation of footprint reduction will affect the ORR and what can ORSSAB do to assure that the release of property from DOE control is accomplished with proper procedures and protocols."

Maggie added that "Many of the topics discussed during the meeting have a direct impact on the ORR and thus ORSSAB. From my perspective this meeting provided an opportunity to participate in activities and enhance my understanding of the current and future EM cleanup issues facing my local community and our nation."

ORSSAB Elects Officers



Ron Murphree



Kevin Westervelt



Ed Juarez

ORSSAB elected officers for FY 2010 at its September meeting. They are:

- Ron Murphree - Chair
- Kevin Westervelt - Vice Chair
- Ed Juarez - Secretary

Ron was appointed to the board in 2006 and was the chair of the EM Committee for two years.

Kevin also joined the board in 2006 and has been the chair of the Public Outreach Committee.

Ed became a board member in 2008 and has been the chair of the Board Finance & Process Committee.

Reservation Update

TSCAI Shuts Down

The Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator (TSCAI) at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) permanently ceased operations December 2 at 9:43 a.m.

From the beginning of operations in 1991 to its closure, TSCAI burned more than 34 million pounds of solid and liquid waste. During FY 2009 it burned almost 1.7 million pounds of liquid waste and 142,000 pounds of solid waste.

TSCAI had been targeted for closure several times in the last few years, but operations were extended to handle additional wastes that continued to come in.

Eschenberg Briefs Board on Management Focus

Newly appointed DOE Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for Environmental Management John Eschenberg has provided some insight on what his near-term management priorities will be.

At the November board meeting he said he would focus on cost containment, project management, and project management principles. “In my view,” he said, “project management breeds rigor which breeds cost containment and schedule delivery.”

He said he was committed to a renewed sense of openness and engagement between Environmental Management and the regulators and stakeholders.

Eschenberg said during his brief time on the job he has become convinced that of all the sites where he has worked, Oak Ridge has the most complex environmental challenges. He has previously worked at the Savannah River Site, Los Alamos, and Hanford.

Bechtel Jacobs Asked to Complete Contract Early

Eschenberg told the board that his office has asked Bechtel Jacobs, Co., DOE’s prime Oak Ridge cleanup contractor, to submit a proposal to finish the terms of its contract by July 1, 2011. The contract is currently set to end December 31, 2011.

He said the purpose was to shave off six months worth of ‘hotel’ costs, which can be used on cleanup projects.

He said another reason was his hope to have a new prime cleanup contract in place within a shorter amount of time than two years or more it sometimes take to secure a contractor.

Sampling to Confirm the Extent of Tech-99 in K-25

The decontamination and decommissioning of the K-25 Building at ETTP has been much more difficult and costly than originally thought.

Among the various challenges related to the demolition of K-25, the problem of technecium-99 contamination in the building continues to generate concern.

Eschenberg has said that tech-99 is believed to be isolated to five units in the lower east wing of the building, but he said sampling must be done to confirm the boundaries of the contamination.

The extent and levels of contamination must be determined in order to decide how old equipment and debris are to be disposed. The waste acceptance criteria for the waste disposal facility in Bear Creek Valley is very restrictive on the contamination levels of tech-99. Almost all material contaminated with tech-99 will have to be sent to the Nevada Test Site.

Congress to Consider a Bill Banning Imported Waste for Tennessee Processing

Legislation to ban importation of foreign nuclear waste for processing in Oak Ridge and disposal in Utah has been approved by a Congressional committee to send to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Rep. Bart Gordon of Murphreesboro, Tenn., introduced the bill after EnergySolutions applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to import 20,000 tons of waste from Italy into the United States. The commission has said it can’t prevent private companies from importing low-level waste as long as safety and security standards are met.

A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Lamar Alexander, but no action has been taken on it.



ORSSAB chair Ron Murphree, left, presents a pen and pencil set to Steve Dixon during the November board meeting in recognition of his service as ORSSAB chair for FY 2009.

Steve now serves as chair of the Board Finance & Process Committee. He has been a board member since 2004.

Steve Stow's Interest in History Led to Formation of Oral History Program

Board member Steve Stow's interest in history led him to suggest studying the possibility of establishing an oral history program for Oak Ridge.

That suggestion resulted in a workshop, the formation of a steering committee, and eventual establishment of the Center for Oak Ridge Oral History (COROH).

While director of the American Museum of Science and Energy, Steve had already conducted a number of oral histories of Oak Ridge National Laboratory pioneers and began cataloging other oral histories that had been recorded over the years. "That's when we realized we had about 300 oral histories. After I retired and joined the board I suggested that we look into consolidating all those recordings in one place," he said.

With a recommendation from ORSSAB, DOE contributed seed money to the City of Oak Ridge to establish COROH, which is now being managed by the Oak Ridge Public Library. Steve is the board's representative on COROH's steering

committee. "The purpose of the center is three-fold: to get our arms around all the histories that have been recorded, continue to record additional histories, and get all of them digitized and available to the public as soon as we can."

Steve also provides his own bit of oral history on the Manhattan Project and the history of Oak Ridge as a tour guide for visitors who go on summer bus tours of the reservation.



Steve Stow in his 'office' at the Y-12 guard blockhouse on Scarboro Road during a break at the first Oral History Subcommittee meeting.

Born in Oklahoma, Steve grew up in Nashville. He earned a degree in geology from Vanderbilt and later attended Rice University in Houston, earning master's and doctoral degrees in geochemistry.

He worked for Continental Oil for three years and was a professor of geology at the University of Alabama for 11 years before arriving in Oak Ridge in 1980.

At Oak Ridge National Lab he managed high-level nuclear waste disposal programs and was a section head for earth sciences in the Environmental Sciences Division. He also held positions as an ethics officer and ombudsman. He became director of the museum in 2003.

Shortly after retiring in 2006, he was appointed to ORSSAB. "Being part of the board exposes one to a variety of ideas and opinions. We definitely have an influence on DOE in its decision-making process. It's a beneficial use of one's time."

Steve's time has been beneficial to ORSSAB as well. As a member of the Public Outreach Committee, he has made a number of presentations to local civic organizations about the board and DOE's cleanup program.

In addition to his interest in history, Steve serves on the museum's foundation board. In his spare time he refinishes antique furniture, spends time in his garden, and has an extensive collection of nuclear science-themed stamps, a portion of which is on display at the library.

Steve and wife Jeanie live in Knoxville and have two adult daughters.

Snap Shots in Oak Ridge Cleanup

10 years ago...

More than 100 people gathered in Oak Ridge to participate in a national stewardship workshop to discuss stewardship at DOE sites and the related actions and activities that were most important for DOE to pursue.

Participants developed "Ten Next Steps for Stewardship" and agreed that DOE, in cooperation with its stakeholders, must provide direction, funding, and technical support for their implementation.

5 years ago...

DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management James Rispoli and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Charlie Anderson visited with ORSSAB chair Kerry Trammell and Steve Dixon, chair of the Board Finance Committee.

Trammell told Rispoli the board was particularly interested in making sure a permit was received to allow shipment of remote-handled transuranic waste from Oak Ridge to New Mexico.

"Stakeholder Survey" Results Show Public's Concerns About Environmental Issues

Annually ORSSAB conducts a survey of people who live in communities adjacent to the Oak Ridge Reservation concerning the environmental cleanup activities that are or will need to be addressed by the DOE Environmental Management (EM) program.

The Stakeholder Survey is mailed to about 800 area residents and distributed at various locations each year.

In the most recent survey, just more than half of respondents said their top environmental cleanup priority was the need to continue and/or expand the monitoring for groundwater and continue actions that will reduce contamination leaving DOE property.

Coming in second in the survey ratings was the closely associated issue of long-term care (stewardship)

of remediated waste sites where contamination has been left in place.

In third place, noted by 26 percent of respondents, was support of Integrated Facility Disposition Program projects at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Lab, followed by economic development at East Tennessee Technology Park, which was selected by 22 percent. The Integrated Facility Disposition Program is a long-term endeavor over about 20 years to eliminate more than 400 outdated and surplus facilities at Y-12 and the lab.

Other topics receiving 14-15 percent of votes were education about the history of the reservation and contamination left on site, cleaning up the burial grounds in Bear Creek Valley, and transportation of waste on public roads. While historic

preservation issues have received much attention the last couple of years, only 13 percent of respondents thought preservation was a top issue.

The issues and concerns identified in the surveys were discussed at the board's annual retreat to assist in planning its work for the next fiscal year (October – September). The board also uses the information when working on recommendations to the EM program on the work priorities it would like for DOE to consider in the annual budget request to DOE Headquarters and ultimately to Congress.

At the ORSSAB annual retreat the items were ranked and incorporated into the work plans for the board's various committees.

ORSSAB to Host Spring 2010 EM SSAB Chairs' Meeting

ORSSAB will host the Spring 2010 EM SSAB Chairs' meeting April 28 and 29 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Ridge. A tour of the Oak Ridge Reservation will be conducted for the participants on Tuesday, April 27. About 50 people are expected to attend both events.

Twice each year representatives of the eight EM SSABs nationwide gather to discuss common issues and concerns. They are joined by DOE EM Headquarters representatives who provide guidance on how the various boards may approach EM problems and offer perspective on topics such as budget, waste disposition efforts, and EM priorities. ORSSAB last hosted the meeting in the spring of 2006 in Knoxville.

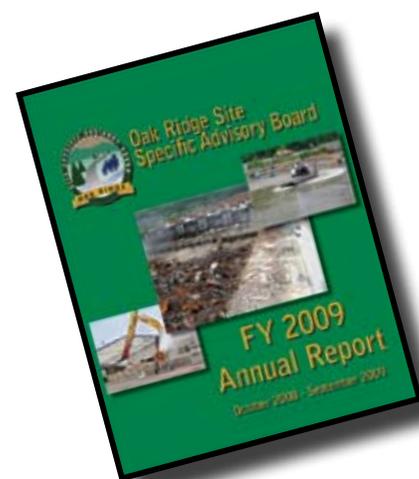
Dr. Inés Triay, DOE Assistant Secretary for EM, has been invited to attend and provide a program update.

The meeting will be open to all, and a public comment period will be provided on both days.

While only one Federal Advisory Committee Act-chartered EM SSAB exists, there are eight DOE site boards under the EM SSAB charter. They include the Hanford Advisory Board, Hanford, Wash.; Idaho National Laboratory Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB); Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board; Northern New Mexico CAB; Paducah CAB in Paducah, Ky.; Portsmouth SSAB in Portsmouth, Ohio; ORSSAB; and the Savannah River Site CAB.

ORSSAB FY 2009 Annual Report Now Available

The FY 2009 ORSSAB Annual Report can be accessed online at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/pubs.htm. Copies are also available at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge.



Recent Recommendations

Board Recommends a Proper Name for Landfill

In October ORSSAB sent a recommendation to DOE Oak Ridge saying the Environmental Management (EM) low-level waste landfill in Bear Creek Valley should have a proper name.

DOE has issued a fact sheet on an explanation of significant differences (ESD) explaining why the record of decision (ROD) that established the landfill should be modified to allow expansion of the facility.

DOE wants to expand the landfill known as the EM Waste Management Facility (EMWMF). However, an expansion requires modifying the ROD that authorized its construction. That change is documented through an ESD, which states the case for expansion and by how much. The ESD is explained through a fact sheet.

The board made some minor comments on the fact sheet, but its recommendation was to use the ESD as a way of formally naming the landfill the EMWMF.

It has been pointed out that the name is not used in the ROD and could hinder document searches. DOE states that this is not the case and is working to make sure all databases and other sources relate EMWMF to the landfill and the ROD. A stewardship map that notes waste left in place will also provide information concerning decision documents and site names.

ORSSAB Asks DOE EM HQ for Endorsement of a Stewardship Workshop

In 1999, a two-day workshop in Oak Ridge on stewardship of remediated sites brought together more than 100 stakeholders from around the DOE complex nationwide.

Some of the original participants in the workshop who are also former members of the board believe it is time to have another workshop to review the status of stewardship activities at closure sites and those with ongoing missions such as Oak Ridge.

A Stewardship Workshop Subcommittee has been discussing a new workshop. The subcommittee members felt the success of such a workshop depended on the endorsement and support from DOE EM headquarters.

At the November board meeting, ORSSAB members voted unanimously to recommend to DOE EM that it endorse and actively support a stewardship workshop.

The goals of the workshop would be a renewed understanding of long-term stewardship, how it will be funded, what records must be kept, and what plans will be implemented.

20th Anniversary of DOE EM Program Observed at Oak Ridge Celebration

DOE Oak Ridge observed the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the EM program at a November 19 celebration. On hand were a number of guests and speakers including Gerald Boyd, Manager of the DOE Oak Ridge Office, John Eschenberg, Assistant Manager for EM, Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan, Bechtel Jacobs, Co., President Joe Nemec, and Ron Murphree, ORSSAB Chair.

In his remarks, Boyd reviewed the various projects that are underway or have been completed toward the goal of remediating the Oak Ridge Reservation of environmental hazards.

“The public has been involved in all aspects of DOE’s Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup work, and many cleanup decisions have been shaped by public input,” he said. “One of the key avenues that DOE relies on to reach out to the public is through the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. This board has been indispensable to the Oak Ridge EM Program.”



*ORSSAB Chair
Ron Murphree
speaking at the EM
20th Anniversary.*

“EM has shown an exemplary regard for the public’s input into the cleanup decision-making process,” said Murphree. “Since ORSSAB was established over 14 years ago, the board has issued more than 180 recommendations to EM on various topics. EM has not always agreed with our recommendations, but in every case they have made a good faith effort to incorporate the concerns of the citizens of this area.

“I believe it is this attitude of inclusiveness and openness that has helped EM establish the solid record of progress and performance we celebrate today.”

ARRA Projects Underway

continued from page 2

Skinner said a contract for hazardous materials abatement and demolition of Building 9735, the last building in what was known as Engineering Row, should be awarded by the first of the year. He said demolition of the building should be completed before the end of 2010.

Work is underway at Building 9206, a former uranium recovery facility, in preparation for demolition of a portion of the building. ARRA work consists of demolition of the filter house and recovery furnace.

Skinner said removal of legacy waste from the Beta 4 Building is ahead of schedule and completion is expected by the early part of 2011. Similar work at Alpha 5 is a bit behind schedule, but Howell doesn't believe the end date of September 2011 will be affected.

At the Y-12 Salvage Yard about 200 waste containers have been sent to the Nevada Test Site for disposal. Skinner said hundreds of similar waste containers surround the loose debris in the scrap yard, which is in the early stages of characterization for disposal.

Video inspection of the mercury-contaminated sewer system at Y-12 has been completed. "By May we'll submit a remedial action work plan that will describe what we'll do to rehabilitate the sewer system," said Skinner.

Expansion of Cell 5 at the low-level waste landfill in Bear Creek Valley is about 40 percent complete, said Skinner. "We're a little behind schedule because of all the rain we've had."

Howell pointed out that overtime and work on weekends is being done to catch up.

East Tennessee Technology Park

At the K-27 Project at ETTP, asbestos removal, electrical upgrades, vault cleanout, and lube oil removal will be completed by mid to late summer 2010. But other work originally scheduled in preparation for demolition of the building will not be done. "The headquarters review team said there are too many uncertainties at K-27 concerning the September 2011 completion date for it to be an ARRA project," said Howell. "We're currently in discussions with headquarters as to what the scope of work will be accomplished at ETTP for the remainder of the money that had been earmarked for the K-27 Building."

The Advocate is a publication of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. To add your name to or remove it from our mailing list, to advise us of a change in address, or for additional copies of the Advocate, write us at the above address, or call the SSAB Support Office at (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584. **Web address: www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab**

JOIN US FOR OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meetings are held at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge, Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Board Meetings

- Jan. 13, 6:00 pm – Technecium-99 Contamination in the K-25 Building at ETTP

Committee Meetings

- Jan. 19, 5:30 pm – Stewardship
- Jan. 20, 5:30 pm – Environmental Mgmnt.
- Feb. 16, 5:30 pm – Stewardship
- Feb. 17, 5:30 pm – Environmental Mgmnt.

**Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
P.O. Box 2001, MS-7604
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831**