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ADVOCATE

Accelerated Cleanup Slows but Keeps Moving Ahead

One of the major milestones for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Accelerated Cleanup Plan (ACP) for the Oak Ridge Reservation

was to complete the closure of East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and initiate any soil, groundwater, and surface water remediation by September 2008, as required by the final record of decision. That milestone will be moved to FY 2009. Otherwise, the other milestones have either been met or are on schedule.

In September 2005, the successful disposition of 1.3 million

cubic feet of low- and mixed low-level waste was completed—a task that involved shipping 27,000 containers of waste to the Nevada Test Site for disposal.

Another project nearing completion is the remediation of Melton Valley, which includes the demolition of about 30 surplus facilities and the hydrologic isolation and capping of 143 acres of burial grounds and trenches.

“We already have data that suggest a downward trend of radioisotopes of concern coming out of the burial ground,” said Paul Clay, Vice President and Deputy General Manager of Bechtel Jacobs, Co., DOE's prime cleanup contractor. “We're also seeing a lowering of the groundwater tables under the caps, which was hoped for.”

Clay, speaking at the May 10 Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meeting, said 27,000 feet of piping that transferred liquid low-level waste to the pits and trenches in Melton Valley have been grouted, and capping of the solid waste storage areas should be finished by July.

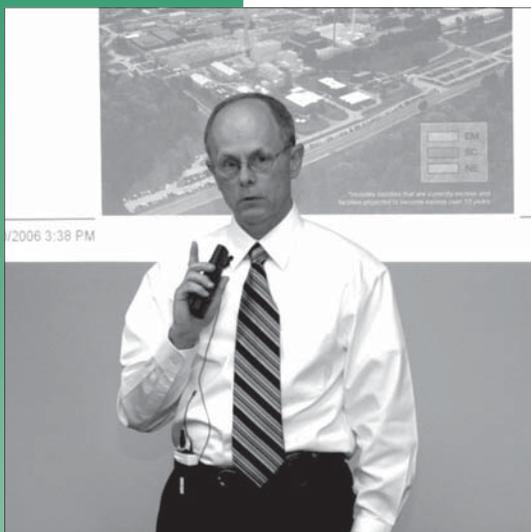
Part of the Melton Valley Project is the cleanup of the 7841 Scrapyard. “When you get into scrapyards, you find a lot of stuff you don't anticipate,” said Clay. “We're working our way through that material, including drums, containers, and construction equipment, including a contaminated backhoe.”

The Balance of Reservation Project addresses other key components of the ACP activities on the site. A number of items are due for completion in September 2008, and several milestones have been met, such as the Bethel Valley Groundwater Engineering Study, the buildout of the Environmental Management (EM) Waste Management Facility, and signing of the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Phase II Record of Decision.

Still scheduled for completion is remediation of the area around Tank W1-A at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Clay said characterization of the soil is scheduled for this summer.

Balance of Reservation includes cleanup of the David Witherspoon site in South Knoxville. More than 4,700 loads of contaminated soil have been shipped from “901,” one of the two Witherspoon sites. Clay said that work should be complete this summer. Site preparation for the 1630 site cleanup will begin in summer or early fall.

But ACP has slowed somewhat at ETTP, even though there has been significant



Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM, discusses the Integrated Facility Disposition Project at the May 10 ORSSAB meeting.

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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

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ORSSAB Hosts National SSAB Chairs Meeting

Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) in Washington, D.C. came to Knoxville April 27-28 to meet with the chairmen of the nine Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) from around the DOE complex.

Heading the list of DOE officials was James Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM), who came to thank the boards for their dedication and to challenge them to continue their work to represent the concerns of their communities.

The DOE EM SSAB is the largest advisory board chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Its mission is to provide DOE with advice and recommendations on its environmental cleanup program at nuclear weapons and research facilities. The chartered board is composed of nine individual local boards at DOE sites throughout the United States where cleanup work is underway.

Twice a year the chairs and other representatives of boards in Oak Ridge, Colorado, Kentucky, Idaho, Nevada,

New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, and Washington state meet to discuss individual and common concerns.

Other DOE visitors from headquarters included Charlie Anderson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM; Mark Frei, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business Operations; Douglas Tonkay of the Office of Commercial Disposition Options; and Melissa Nielson and Doug Frost of the Office of Internal/External Coordination.

Gerald Boyd, DOE-Oak Ridge Manager, and Steve McCracken, Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM, were present at the meeting to welcome the attendees, along with Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam and Dave Mosby representing the City of Oak Ridge.

Rispoli spoke on the vision and plans for the EM program. He noted five main areas of focus: safety in conducting cleanup operations and demolition of facilities, risk reduction, project management, human capital, and lessons learned from completed projects.

Frei gave an overview of the FY 2007 EM budget. He said the budget request to Congress is \$5.82 billion, down about \$700 million from FY 2006—a reduction due, in part, to completion of cleanup projects at Rocky Flats, Colo., and Fernald, Ohio. He also said there had been other requirements on the federal budget such as hurricane relief and the conflict in Iraq.

Oak Ridge's cleanup budget is due to drop about \$14 million, from \$485 million in 2006 to \$471 million in 2007.

Anderson talked about nuclear materials disposition and consolidation. He said near-term issues are consolidation of excess plutonium-239 by 2008; disposition of uranium-233 from Oak Ridge National Laboratory; removal of surplus material from the Y-12 National Security Complex; removal of surplus material from Los Alamos National Laboratory; removal of materials from Sandia National Laboratory by 2008; removal of surplus weapons pits from at the Pantex plant in Texas; and consolidation of plutonium-238.

Tonkay discussed DOE's waste disposition activities. He said 45 percent of the FY 2007 budget request is for disposition, while another 33 percent is for remediation and decontamination projects that generate waste.

Tonkay said the Office of Commercial Disposition Options is developing national disposition system strategies for major waste streams. He said a disposition strategy report is being finalized at DOE headquarters and should be available for public review within a few weeks.

During the meeting, the SSAB representatives crafted two recommendations to DOE. (See "Recent Recommendations and Comments" on page 4.)



Top row from left: Idaho National Laboratory Co-Chair Richard Buxton, Hanford member Shelley Cimon, Rocky Flats Chair Gerald DePoorter, Hanford Chair Todd Martin, Assistant Secretary for EM James Rispoli, David Hermann, Nevada Test Site member, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM Charlie Anderson, Rocky Flats Executive Director Ken Korkia, Savannah River Chair Karen Patterson, Northern New Mexico Chair J.D. Campbell, Savannah River Vice Chair Donna Antonucci, Northern New Mexico Vice Chair Grace Perez, ORSSAB member Norman Mulvenon. Seated from left: Idaho National Laboratory Co-Chair Bill Flanery, Fernald member Gene Willeke, Hanford Vice Chair Susan Leckband, Fernald Vice Chair Lisa Crawford, Nevada Test Site Chair Kathleen Peterson, Paducah Chair-Elect Rhonda Smith, ORSSAB Chair Kerry Trammell.



Chairs meeting snapshots. Clockwise from top left: Hanford Chair Todd Martin (left) with reception hosts Staci and Rick Ferguson of Restoration Services, Inc. SSAB Alternate Designated Federal Officer Melissa Nielson (left) with Tony Carter of DOE's Office of Legacy Management and Carla Sanda, Nevada advisory board support staff. Karen Patterson, Savannah River Site Chair (left), with Lorri Bonds Lopez, Los Alamos National Laboratory Liaison, and Hanford member Shelley Cimon. ORSSAB member Steve Douglas (left) with two of the approximately 25 members of the public who attended the meeting. Douglas Tonkay, Office of Commercial Disposition Options (foreground), and members of the public. Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management James Rispoli.



Reservation Update

Demolition of K-29 Building Ahead of Schedule

The first gaseous diffusion plant in the U.S. to be demolished is coming down ahead of schedule. Bill Cahill, DOE team leader for the decontamination and decommissioning of K-29 at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), said the project should be finished by mid-summer.

All waste and debris will be transported via the haul road from ETTP to the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF).

Unexpected Junk in the Junk Yard Slows Cleanup

Since May 2004 work has been underway to clean up the K-770 Scrapyard near ETTP. About 30,000 tons of material have been taken to the EMWMF for disposal.

But some unexpected items have been found, slowing the work and putting cleanup of K-770 several months behind schedule. Hundreds of cylinders that may contain uranium hexafluoride have been uncovered. They are being set aside to be dealt with separately. They cannot be disposed at EMWMF until the contents are identified.

Wetlands Created in Wake of Haul Road Construction

Building the haul road from ETTP to the EMWMF was partially contingent on doing the project as environmentally friendly as possible.

As a result, a number of wetlands, some as small as 10 by 10 feet, were identified and mapped. In all, about 1.35 acres of wetlands were impacted by the road. To offset this impact, project planners working with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation worked to bypass an old weir on Bear Creek with a man-made

section of stream. The bypass would restore the creek at that point to a free flowing condition that would improve the mobility of fish in the creek. The bypass would also allow the new wetland to be centered on about 300 feet of the original stream bed.

In doing the work, the old channel was partially backfilled, and more than 1,200 native tree seedlings were planted. The area was seeded with native grasses. The result is a natural-looking channel about 450 feet long. The adjacent wetlands are fed by springs.

K-31 Possible Home for Ethanol Production Plant

A Florida company has expressed interest in using the gigantic K-31 building at ETTP to produce ethanol from coal.

If the deal goes through, BRI Energy could produce as much as 150 gallons of ethanol per ton of coal. BRI President William Bruce said the company is seeking about \$20 million in federal financial assistance to build the \$25 million plant.

Bruce said the company also has the technology to convert carbon-based municipal waste, such as garbage, paper, and plastic, to ethanol. That plant would be significantly more expensive to build – about \$300 million. Bruce has proposed a \$250 million federal loan coupled with about \$62.5 million in private investment to build that plant inside K-31, which encompasses about 17.5 acres under one roof.

More Business Activity at ETTP and Horizon Center

In addition to the proposed ethanol production plant at K-31, several other developments are in the works at ETTP, also called the Heritage Center, and at the nearby Horizon Center. According to Lawrence Young,

President of the Community Reuse Organization of Tennessee (CROET), several new projects are in planning or underway.

Young says the state has funded an infrastructure grant for a 48,000-square-foot industrial building at Horizon Center, with construction set to begin soon. The grant in the amount of \$276,157 will help pay for extending water and sewer lines to seven acres along Oak Ridge Turnpike for the speculative building.

Another company, Philotechnics, Ltd., is building a plant on five acres at Horizon Center. It is the first company to build at the site. Philotechnics prepares low-level radioactive waste for transport, as well as assists in cleanup activities. It's moving its headquarters from Pittsburgh, Pa., to Oak Ridge.

DOE is about to transfer another 21 acres in front of the Heritage Center for development by three companies showing interest in the location. After the transfer from DOE to CROET the asking price for the property will be between \$25,000 and \$32,500 an acre.

ZOOM!

It was a race to build it more than 60 years ago, so maybe it's fitting that K-25 may be turned into a race track. Cookeville resident Eric Wilson wants to build a \$40 million racecourse on and around the footprint of K-25, which is currently being dismantled. Wilson says it's a perfect spot to race cars and motorcycles and would draw thousands of visitors to the area.

But members of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association say "Hold your horsepower!" Preservationists want more of an interpretive center for the site, even though Wilson's plan would keep the northern end of K-25 intact, with grandstands for the race track built nearby.

Recent Recommendations & Comments

Complete recommendation text can be found on the ORSSAB web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc.htm.

ORSSAB Recommends Above-Target Budget Request for FY 2008

In May ORSSAB recommended to DOE that it request funding above the FY 2008 target budget to generate the documents necessary to begin high priority projects in 2009.

The Board also recommended that DOE request new target budgets beyond 2008 that support completion of work at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), remove unneeded facilities at the Y-12 National Security Complex, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and complete remediation on the Oak Ridge Reservation by 2015.

Each year DOE allows the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency to weigh in on prioritizing cleanup projects on the reservation. For 2009 and beyond, 12 projects were given highest priority to have documents prepared so work could begin at Y-12 and ORNL.

Completion of work assigned highest priority would ultimately result in:

- demolition of buildings at Y-12 and ORNL that would enhance soil cleanup,
- start of remediation activities for remaining records of decision, and
- initiation of at least one of the projects where a decision document remains to be signed (Bear Creek Valley Record of Decision).

If FY 2008 budget limitations prevent the initiation of documents for the high-priority projects, the Board recommended that building demolition

be given high priority to make use of the work force already deployed for demolition at ETTP.

This is the first time since 2002 that a budget prioritization process has been done. At that time the Accelerated Cleanup Plan and the Performance Management Plan were put in place identifying work to be completed by 2008. The Board also recommended that the Performance Management Plan be updated to support work for FY 2009-15.

SSAB Chairs Develop Two Recommendations for DOE at National Meeting

The chairs of the nine Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) crafted two recommendations to DOE at the recent spring EM SSAB chairs' meeting, held April 27–28 in Knoxville, Tenn. (See story on Page 2). The recommendations were signed by each chair following approval by the individual boards and were then transmitted to DOE Assistant Secretary for EM James Rispoli.

SSAB Inclusion in the DOE Budgeting Process

The chairs were concerned about significant cuts in the FY 2007 EM budget. They feared the cuts would result in insufficient funding to complete some cleanup projects on schedule. They were also worried that regulatory requirements, commitments to stakeholders, and continued risk reduction might not receive proper attention as a result of budget shortfalls.

Because many of the SSABs are not included in budget discussions at individual sites, the chairs felt that lack of input often resulted in 'surprise and concern' when budget priorities

became known. The chairs believed that the EM objective of risk reduction would be improved if the SSABs, other stakeholders, and regulatory agencies were involved in the budgeting process.

In their recommendation, the chairs requested inclusion in the EM budgeting process to assist in establishing priorities and funding at each site. They also asked that DOE headquarters provide guidance to site managers to work with local SSABs in developing local budgets.

Lessons Learned from Closure Sites

The spring chairs' meeting included reports on lessons learned from closure sites at Fernald, Ohio, and Rocky Flats, Colo. Representatives of the two sites collaborated to develop a list of lessons learned common to both sites.

The chairs believed it would be beneficial to DOE EM to study and incorporate those lessons as other sites complete their cleanup missions.

The chairs requested the following be considered at future closure sites:

- EM should use collaborative decision-making that includes DOE, regulators, contractors, and the community.
- EM should work with new landlords of closure sites to ensure that continuing stakeholder interests are federally chartered to act in an advisory role.
- EM should involve the new landlords early in the process to ensure a smooth transition.
- EM should facilitate active engagement between the new landlord and the local SSAB.
- The local SSAB should remain involved until closure is complete.

ORSSAB Welcomes New Member, Students

One new member and two high school representatives were added to the ORSSAB roster this spring.



Dorothy Dunn

Appointed to fill a recent vacancy on the board is Dorothy Dunn. Dorothy is the Executive Coordinator for Keep Roane Beautiful, a countywide public service

program to educate and empower the citizens of Roane County to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment. She is active in a variety of community organizations, including the Harriman Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce, and is chairperson on the Roane County Solid Waste Board. Dorothy is a resident of Kingston.

Sarah Lewis and Sean Purdy are the new ORSSAB student representatives. Each year, high school students are seated on the Board to represent the views, concerns, and interests of area youth. At least one student is selected from Oak Ridge High School, and others are chosen on a rotating basis from schools in surrounding areas.



Sean Purdy and Sara Lewis

Sarah Lewis is rising senior at Oak Ridge High School, where she is the Vice President of

SECME (Science, Engineering, Communications, Math Enrichment) and a National Honor Society member. She is a senior Girl Scout, currently working on her gold award project and an Envirothon participant for the Oak Ridge High School team. Sarah works as a tutor at Woodland elementary and plans a career in biological research.

Sean Purdy is a rising senior at Webb School of Knoxville, where he is a peer counselor, a leader of the Spanish Club, and a member of SALSA (Students Advocating Life without Substance Abuse). He plays baseball and basketball and has served as a counselor at various sports camps during the summer. Every summer he also volunteers at the Knoxville Open golf tournament, which benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs, and he has volunteered at the Special Olympics. Sean's career interests include education and psychology.

ORSSAB Receives National Volunteer Service Award

As part of National Volunteer Week, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) James Rispoli presented ORSSAB with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Kerry Trammell accepted the award on behalf of the board members, who collectively contribute more than 600 hours each year to DOE.

Rispoli made the presentation at the recent EM Site Specific Advisory Board chairs' meeting in Knoxville (see Page 2). Rispoli presented similar awards (a lapel pin) to the attending representatives of other eight SSABs nationwide. "I recognize that what the chairs and the members of the boards do requires a lot of time, and you're doing it not for any monetary reward, but because it means something to you and your communities," said Rispoli.

"It's important that we pause and recognize these people who give so much effort and knowledge and energy in doing these things.

"In making these presentations we're recognizing not only those present but all the people who make up the individual boards. This is a recognition that people take time out of their lives to volunteer to help their communities and thereby help the nation."

The President's Volunteer Service Award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States. The award is given to individuals, families, and groups who



Kerry Trammell (left) receives award from James Rispoli.

have demonstrated volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.

President Bush has called on Americans to volunteer two years or 4,000 hours over the course of a lifetime.

ACP Slows at ETTP

progress at the site. To date, 662 acres in the area known as Zone 1 have been cleared for industrial use. Zone 1 is the area outside the old security fence. Clay said an additional 342 acres will be cleared, pending approval by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Early this year, decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) of Buildings K-29, K-31, and K-33 was completed. K-29, however, is not suitable for reuse and is coming down while tenants are being sought for K-31 and K-33. Buildings K-1401 and K-1420 are currently being demolished, and equipment is being removed from the K-1210 and K-1220 centrifuge complex. Six other facilities totaling 300,000 square feet have been transferred to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee.

Elsewhere in the ETTP main plant area, 142 facilities have been demolished, 240 have been characterized, and 204 have been deactivated.

Clay said more than 4,800 cylinders containing depleted uranium hexafluoride have been shipped off site. He said some exemptions from the Department of Transportation are needed to finish shipping the remaining 1,100 cylinders.

But problems have thrown cleanup of ETTP behind schedule. Just as at the 7841 Scrapyard at Melton Valley, some discoveries were made at the K-770 Scrapyard just west of ETTP. "We found some things we weren't expecting, and we had to work around that," said Clay. "We had to develop some safety plans to manage some of the things we came across. But the job is about 75 percent complete."

The biggest slowdown has occurred at the massive, but rapidly deteriorat-

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ing K-25 building. In January a worker stepped through a degraded concrete floor panel on the operating floor and fell almost 30 feet, striking some piping and steel supports on the way down. That accident resulted in a reevaluation of how work is done in the building in preparation for eventual demolition. Tons of old equipment and miles of piping must be removed from the building before it can be torn down.

"How do we limit the exposure of people inside the building? We're in the process of re-planning the method of accomplishment," said Clay. "Experts have been brought in to analyze the building and help determine the best way to minimize exposure to workers.

"There are a number of issues that have to be addressed in demolishing K-25," Clay continued. "You'd like to be able to go at it with machines, but there are some security and criticality safety issues we have to deal with."

DOE Oak Ridge EM recently issued an information sheet explaining the basic change in how the work will be performed. To this point the technical approach has been to remove compressors, converters, and process piping by hand prior to demolition. The proposed plan is to unbolt the compressors and converters, then demolish the building around them. The heavy equipment will be retrieved from the building debris.

According to DOE this approach will significantly reduce the number of workers and the amount of time they spend inside building. This method would be used in the D&D of K-27 as well. Most of the equipment and building debris will be disposed at the EM Waste Management Facility as originally planned.

The information sheet does not indicate cost or schedule impacts.

However, Steve McCracken, DOE Assistant Manager for EM, has said that a revised baseline currently being reviewed in Washington indicates closure for the entire ETTP site could be 9 to 10 months beyond the original date of September 2008. That could cost Bechtel Jacobs more than \$100 million in late fees, and Bechtel Jacobs could also lose money if there are significant cost overruns. It isn't known yet how the change in D&D strategy will affect overall costs.

DOE Proposes More Work

DOE's Oak Ridge EM program has proposed taking on additional cleanup work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex in order to complete cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation by 2018.

The proposal, known as the Integrated Facilities Disposition Project, also supports the modernization and footprint reduction at ORNL and Y-12.

McCracken said there are about 200 facilities that are or will be excess to DOE's needs at the two sites. The proposal is to accept those buildings into EM's baseline. He said it makes sense to do the work. "We're trained for it. We're prepared to do it, and the workforce is in place," he said.

The proposal is being reviewed at DOE headquarters in Washington. "I think they agree with the scope of work," said McCracken. "The issue is the timeframe and how to pay for it."

McCracken said there are 58 facilities already in the EM baseline at ORNL. The proposal identifies about 130 facilities projected to become excess in the next five years. A similar situation exists at Y-12 where four facilities are in the EM baseline, and another 15 are due to become excess over the next 10 years.

"Secret City" Offers Outreach Opportunity



Attracting more than 15,000 visitors and residents each year, Oak Ridge's Secret City Festival is a lively two-day celebration offering a variety of activities.

This year's event was held June 16–17 and featured the world premiere of Keith McDaniel's documentary film "Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story Part 2;" a World War II battle re-enactment and historic camps featuring more than 150 American, British, and German troops; children's activities; arts, crafts, and antique dealers; and exhibits by commercial vendors and non-profit organizations.

Top photo, left to right: Board members Ben Adams, Rhonda Bogard, and Kerry Trammell. Right photo, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM Steve McCracken (left) and board member Norman Mulvenon.



ORSSAB participated with an informational booth, staffed by board members Ben Adams, Rhonda Bogard, Heather Cothron, Steve Douglas, Gloria Mei, Norman Mulvenon, and Kerry Trammell. Pat Halsey, the board's Federal Coordinator, and Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, helped out as well.

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JOIN US FOR OUR JULY MEETINGS

Monthly Board Meeting – July 12, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting presentation will feature an overview of CERCLA, RCRA, NEPA, and other regulations.

Committee Meetings

July 18, 5:30 p.m.	Stewardship
July 19, 5:30 p.m.	Environmental Mgmt.
July 25, 5:30 p.m.	Public Outreach
July 27, 5:00 p.m.	Board Finance
July 27, 5:30 p.m.	Executive

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