



# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board



# FY 2007 Annual Report

September 2006 - August 2007

# A Message from the Chair



*Lance Mezga, Chair*

I was privileged to have been the chair of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) during fiscal year 2007, and I'm pleased to report that it was another year of accomplishments for the board. We saw the conclusion of a number of things where the board provided input to the Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office over the years.

A major accomplishment by DOE, with previous advice from the board, was the completion of remediation of Melton Valley. This was one of three major goals by DOE under the Accelerated Closure Plan. Beginning in 1998, the board has made 20 recommendations to DOE on various aspects of the project. The board's recommendation to leave much of the waste in place in Melton Valley saved U.S. taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Another successfully completed project was the final removal of almost 7,000 cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride from the East Tennessee Technology Park. Uranium hexafluoride was a waste by-product generated by the enrichment of uranium. ORSSAB made recommendations in 2003 and 2004 concerning removal of the cylinders.

In FY 2007, ORSSAB submitted nine recommendations to DOE. You can read the details of those recommendations in this annual report. But ORSSAB was active in other areas beyond making recommendations:

- In May 2007 the board hosted a public meeting on the Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review. The board recommended that DOE use an ORSSAB meeting as the public meeting for the Five-Year Review, and ORSSAB worked with DOE and its prime cleanup contractor to host the meeting.
- Every three years DOE must publish a public involvement plan that spells out how DOE communicates to the public the opportunities available for participation in decision-making processes regarding remediation of contaminated areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation. ORSSAB supplied numerous comments and suggestions, which were incorporated into the plan.
- The board sponsored a day-long workshop in March 2007 entitled "A General Overview of the Decommissioning Process." The workshop gave board members and others interested in the topic a better understanding of what is involved in taking down contaminated structures.
- And in Spring 2007 the board formed the Oral History Subcommittee to explore the possibility of facilitating an oral history program for the reservation. The subcommittee's work led to a workshop held in October 2007 that included thirty representatives of organizations interested in preserving the history of Oak Ridge for future generations.

I hope you find the information in this annual report interesting and useful. I also invite you to attend our monthly meetings and become involved in what we do in assisting DOE in its mission to clean up the Oak Ridge Reservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Mezga". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Lance Mezga, Chair

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is to provide meaningful opportunities for collaborative dialogue among the diverse multicultural communities surrounding the Oak Ridge Reservation, EM, and the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office (ORO). The Board is chartered under the EM Site Specific Advisory Board Charter. At the request of the Assistant Secretary, the ORO Manager, or the ORO Assistant Manager for EM, the Board may provide informed advice and recommendations concerning the following EM site-specific issues: cleanup standards and environmental restoration, waste management and disposition, stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials, excess facilities, future land use and long-term stewardship, risk assessment and management, and cleanup science and technology activities. The Board may also be asked to provide advice and recommendations on any other EM project or issue. The Board ensures early, ongoing community access to information (and its interpretation and implications) and dialogue that improves the quality of the decision-making process of EM and ORO.

# Introduction

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) is an independent, federally appointed citizens' panel that provides advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on its Oak Ridge Environmental Management (EM) Program. The group was formed in 1995.

The board is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to the DOE EM program regarding cleanup standards and environmental restoration, waste management and disposition, stabilization and disposition of non-stockpile nuclear materials, excess facilities, future land use and long-term stewardship, risk assessment and management, and cleanup science and technology activities. The board

is committed to reflecting the concerns of the communities impacted by EM activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) and to serving as a communications link between the public and relevant government agencies, including local governments. A map of the ORR is shown in Figure 1.

The board is composed of up to 20 members, chosen to reflect the diversity of gender, race, occupations, views, and interests of persons living near the ORR. Members are appointed by DOE and serve on a voluntary basis, without compensation. At the close of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, the board consisted of 18 voting members from five counties: Anderson, Blount, Knox, Loudon, and Roane.

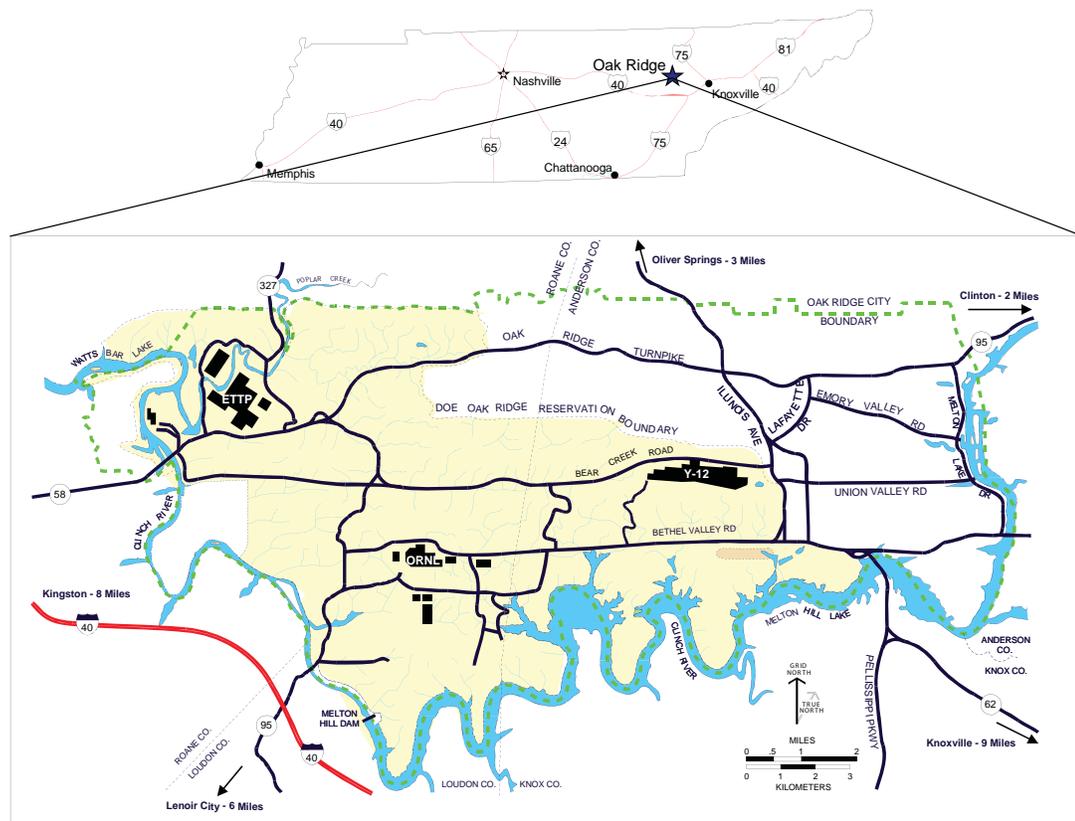


Figure 1. Map of the Oak Ridge Reservation showing East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and Oak Ridge Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12).

Non-voting liaisons include representatives from DOE-Oak Ridge, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). These liaisons advise the board on their agencies' policies and views. Non-voting student participants also serve on the board to represent the viewpoints and concerns of area youth.

ORSSAB provides a number of avenues for the public to learn about and express their views on DOE-Oak Ridge EM work. All board and committee meetings are open to the public and are posted in newspaper advertisements and at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Board meetings are also advertised in the *Federal Register* and are video recorded and broadcast on local cable television stations. Copies of the meeting videos are available for public review at the Information Center.

The board maintains a web site at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab), where information can be found. Information is also available by calling the ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584.

## Board Meetings

The board meets monthly to hear presentations by personnel working on relevant EM topics, listen to and discuss input from concerned citizens, consider recommendations to DOE developed by the various ORSSAB committees, and conduct other business.

The board conducts its deliberations under ORSSAB bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order and strives for consensus in reaching decisions.

## Committees

A diagram of the board's FY 2007 structure is shown in Figure 2. General board business is handled at the monthly Executive Committee meeting. This committee, which is composed of the elected officers of the board and the standing committee chairs, holds general administrative authority to set board agendas, coordinate the work of committees, and transact business as necessary.

ORSSAB committees usually meet monthly, and all meetings are open to the public. Each

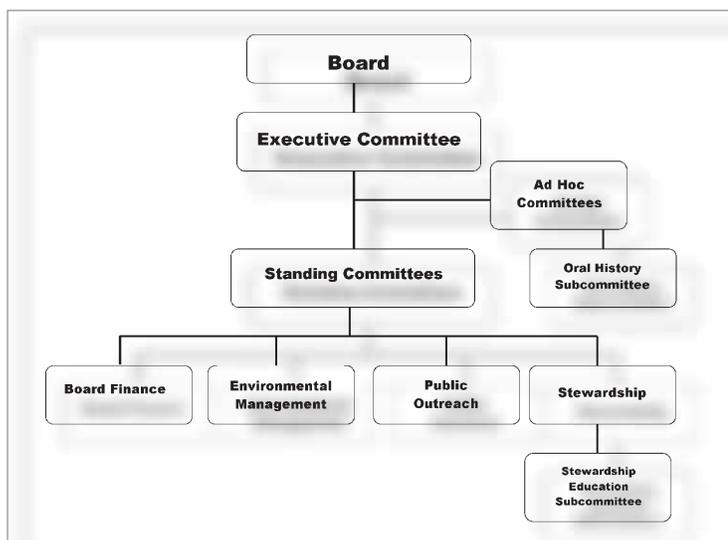


Figure 2. FY 2007 ORSSAB committee structure.

ORSSAB committee creates its own work plan to guide its activities during the year, and these work plans are updated continually as the board year progresses. Information about ORSSAB committees can be found in the "Committees" section of this report.

## FY 2007 Board Officers

Officers for the year were Chair: Lance Mezga; Vice Chair: Norman Mulvenon; Secretary: Steve Douglas (September 2006–January 2007), Ben Adams (February–August 2007).

# Key Issues

Following are key issues that resulted in board recommendations in FY 2007. Complete text of all recommendations is available at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc.htm).

## **Recommendation 150: Proposed Method for Decontamination and Decommissioning of Buildings K-25 and K-27 at ETPP**

When a worker was seriously injured at the K-25 building in early 2006, DOE basically stopped all decontamination and decommissioning activities, and it worked with its contractor to develop new procedures to take down the building to better protect workers. After hearing a presentation on the plan, ORSSAB supported DOE's decision and recommended adoption of the new procedures. While DOE said the plan would result in cost savings, ORSSAB was skeptical of such a claim and asked for regular updates on the progress of the work.

## **Recommendation 151: Logistics for a Public Meeting on the 2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report and CERCLA Five-Year Review**

Every five years DOE is required to publish a Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review detailing what remediation steps have been taken at contaminated sites. In addition to publishing a report, DOE must have a public meeting to present the results of the report. The board made a number of suggestions on how the meeting should be conducted and that it be held during a regularly scheduled board meeting. DOE accepted the recommendations, and the public meeting was held during the May board meeting.

## **Recommendation 152: Notice of Contamination and Future Use Limitations/Intent to Provide Notations on Ownership Records in Melton Valley**

The record of decision for interim actions to clean up Melton Valley requires deed restrictions and property record notices to define those areas where land use is restricted because of the presence of hazardous materials left in place after remediation. The record of decision also requires that the public be informed of those restrictions through a notice of contamination and future use limitations. DOE provided draft versions of the notice to the ORSSAB Stewardship Committee.

The committee revised the notice to be easier to read and more 'user friendly.' The board then transmitted it as a formal recommendation to DOE and also recommended that DOE publish a shortened version of the notice in local newspapers. In its response, DOE said it generally agreed with the recommendations, but the department also said it was still working with EPA regarding suggestions it had on wording of the notice.

## **Recommendation 154: Reaffirmation of the DOE Secretarial Policy to Provide Stewardship at Ongoing Mission Sites with Residual Contamination**

In 1998 ORSSAB recommended to DOE that the Secretary of Energy establish a national policy of commitment to long-term stewardship that included guidance for local participation. With the completion of remediation in Melton Valley and other sites around the country, the board felt DOE should reaffirm that commitment, especially at ongoing mission sites with residual contamination. The board recommended that DOE Headquarters assign a liaison within the EM program who would be responsible for oversight and assistance for stewardship at ongoing mission sites.

DOE Assistant Secretary for EM James Rispoli responded by saying he had assigned the suggestion of a stewardship liaison to the Working Group on Roles, Responsibilities, Accountabilities, and

Authorities. A final response to the recommendation has not yet been received.

### **Recommendation 155: Draft Legacy Management Strategic Plan**

In October 2006 the DOE Office of Legacy Management issued its strategic plan, which did not address stewardship needs for sites with ongoing missions, such as Oak Ridge. The board felt if the Office of Legacy Management had no responsibility for ongoing mission sites, the plan must state who does have responsibility.

Legacy Management responded that the board's comments had been incorporated into the next draft of the plan where appropriate. But the final plan "does not address long-term surveillance and maintenance...at sites where cleanup has only been partially completed or at sites with continuing missions. Such sites would not transfer to Legacy Management."

### **Recommendation 156: FY 2009 EM Budget Request**

In June 2006 the combined chairs of the EM SSAB recommended to DOE that the SSABs be included in future EM budget discussions to assist in the establishment of priorities and funding for each site. DOE Headquarters agreed with the recommendations and issued guidance to local EM managers to include the SSABs in budget discussions.

In February 2007 ORSSAB was briefed on the FY 2007 budget status, as well as the FY 2008 budget and the FY 2009 budget targets. As a result of that briefing, ORSSAB made a number of recommendations. Those recommendations were transmitted to DOE Headquarters, and a copy of the FY 2007 budget submittal was returned to the board.

### **Recommendation 157: Adoption of the DOE Oak Ridge Public Involvement Plan**

CERCLA and the Federal Facility Agreement for the ORR require DOE to publish a public involvement plan every three years. The purpose of the plan is to notify the public of opportunities for participation in decisions regarding remediation activities on the reservation.

A draft plan was presented at a public meeting in April 2007 and was also presented to the ORSSAB Stewardship and Public Outreach committees. Comments by the committees were incorporated into a second draft plan that was presented in May. In July the board recommended that the plan be adopted by DOE.

Chairs Recommendation: As one of the seven SSABs comprising the national EMSSAB, ORSSAB sends members to semiannual chairs meetings to discuss common issues. At the Fall 2006 meeting the following recommendation was crafted and sent to DOE Headquarters.

### **Recommendation to Include Public Participation in Technology Development and Deployment at DOE sites**

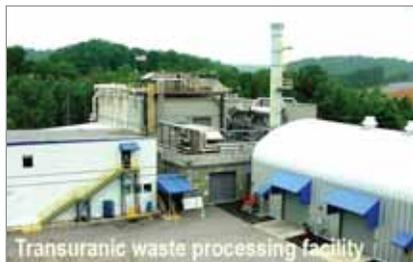
At the Fall 2006 chairs meeting, a 10-year plan for addressing remediation of contaminants at DOE sites was presented. The plan focused on development of technologies to be used in these remediation projects. The SSAB chairs felt that opportunities existed for the public to be involved in evaluating and selecting proposed technologies, and they recommended that the DOE Office of Engineering Technology, along with the DOE field offices, develop a public process for evaluating these technologies. The chairs also invited a representative of the office to attend the Spring 2007 chairs meeting.

DOE Assistant Secretary Rispoli answered, saying the idea of public participation in selecting new remediation technologies deserved consideration. He also said a representative of the Office of Engineering Technology would attend the Spring 2007 chairs meeting.

# The Year's Top News

## Way Cleared for Shipment of Remote-Handled Waste to New Mexico

The approval of a revised operating permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico in September 2006 cleared the way for the shipment of remote-handled transuranic waste from the ORR.



Oak Ridge has the largest inventory of remote-handled transuranic waste of any site in the DOE complex. Processing of the waste material for shipment from Oak Ridge is scheduled to begin in June 2008.

## All Cylinders Containing Uranium Hexafluoride Shipped Off the ORR

A major cleanup milestone was reached in December 2006 when the last of almost 7,000 large cylinders containing uranium hexafluoride left the ORR. The uranium hexafluoride was a waste by-product from years of enriching uranium at ETTP. The project was completed on time and within the \$27.5 million budget.

The cylinders, weighing up to 14 tons each, were transported by truck to a conversion facility being built in Ohio. About 3.6 million miles were logged without incident, making the thousands of trips back and forth between Oak Ridge and Ohio.



Oak Ridge has the largest inventory of remote-handled transuranic waste of any site in

## Casks of Cesium Removed from K-770 Scrap Yard at ETTP

DOE revealed in December 2006 that three casks containing cesium-137 had been removed from the K-770 Scrap Yard at ETTP. They weren't supposed to be there. The casks had actually been discovered in late 2005, but because of the dangerous nature of the material it had been kept secret until the casks could be moved to a secure location at ORNL.

The casks contained thousands of curies of cesium-137 and some strontium-90. It is not known how the casks got into the scrap yard, which was used primarily for the disposal of scrap metal. The area was being cleaned up when the casks were found.

## Final Demolition of K-25 Building Pushed Back By Two Years

Demolition of the huge K-25 building at ETTP has been delayed at least until 2010. That's two years beyond the original completion date of September 2008. Lack of funding, safety concerns, and changes in the method of accomplishment to address those concerns have been cited as reasons for the delay.



Demolition of K-25 is part of a \$1.6 billion cleanup package on the ORR known as the Accelerated Closure Plan. The estimated cost to take down K-25 was about \$300 million when the plan was finalized. The new estimate is more than double that. Taking down the huge building will generate about 660,000 cubic yards of solid waste that will go in the EM Waste Management Facility in Bear Creek Valley.

## **K-25 Building Historical Preservation Plays Role in Demolition Plans**

What should be done to preserve the historical significance of the K-25 building? There's little debate that something should be done, but what? Keeping the whole building is not a consideration. It's structurally unsound and contaminated with radioactive material. Discussions are centered, rather, on trying to keep at least the north tower, which is a large structure itself.

In 2005 a memorandum of agreement was signed that spelled out what DOE would do to preserve the north tower. The signatories to the memorandum include the manager of DOE-Oak Ridge, the DOE Federal Preservation Office, the Tennessee Historical Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the city of Oak Ridge, and the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association.

The signatories met periodically in 2006 to hear updates on K-25. In addition, a group called Partnership for K-25 Preservation worked throughout 2006 to develop a conceptual model for K-25 that included building a museum within the confines of the north tower for interpretive purposes.

## **Continuing Budget Resolution Slows Down Work on the Reservation**

When Congress failed to pass a budget for FY 2007 on time, all government agencies had to operate the first few months under a 'continuing resolution,' or an OK to continue work using FY 2006 figures. Without knowing what the final FY 2007 budget would be, DOE Oak Ridge slowed down work, which threatened to affect a number of project milestones DOE had previously agreed to with EPA and TDEC.

The regulators, TDEC in particular, did not agree with DOE's decision to slow down work, noting that under the continuing resolution using FY

2006 figures, DOE had more money available than it would have under the proposed FY 2007 budget request. TDEC also noted that earmarks for certain projects slated for FY 2007 had been removed under the continuing resolution until the budget had been approved by Congress. In effect, TDEC argued that DOE had more flexibility in spending options, not less.

TDEC asserted that DOE was making unilateral decisions about spending, which was in violation of the Federal Facility Agreement. Consequently, the issue went to formal dispute among the agreement signatories—DOE, EPA, and TDEC. That required a meeting that included the manager of DOE Oak Ridge, the EPA regional administrator, and the TDEC commissioner. At the end of May 2007 an agreement was reached that gave DOE some flexibility in FY 2007 and 2008, but added milestones in FY 2009 to keep the ultimate goal of completed cleanup by 2016 on track.

## **TSCA Incinerator Approved to Operate Another Three Years**

In November 2006 TDEC approved a burn plan for the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator at ETTP to operate another three years.



The plan allows the incinerator to consume more than 10 million pounds of waste during that time. Much of the waste will come from Ohio. The incinerator is the only one in the DOE complex that is licensed to burn both solid and liquid radioactive and hazardous wastes. It was scheduled for closure in 2003, but operations have been extended several times to facilitate cleanup operations at several other DOE sites around the country.

# Milestones & Special Events

## ORSSAB Begins Oral History Initiative

In spring 2007 ORSSAB formed a subcommittee to explore the possibility of facilitating an oral history program for the ORR. The fruits of the subcommittee's work in 2007 were realized on October 11 when thirty people representing a variety of organizations and personal interests attended an oral history workshop organized by ORSSAB and the Oak Ridge Public Library.



*Thirty people attended a workshop on October 11, 2007, to discuss ways to organize a comprehensive oral history program related to the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. The event was sponsored by the ORSSAB Oral History Subcommittee and the Oak Ridge Public Library.*

About 275 oral history interviews have been conducted to date with Oak Ridge scientists, engineers, community leaders, and residents, but there is no central location housing all of the existing tapes, and no mechanism exists to manage an active oral history program in terms of cataloguing and transcribing tapes, identifying and interviewing people, and providing researchers with access to materials.

The workshop, which was held at the DOE Information Center, was facilitated by former Oak Ridge mayor David Bradshaw. Participants included DOE-Oak Ridge, the American Museum of Science and Energy, the Oak Ridge Children's Museum, Oak Heritage and Preservation Association, Friends of ORNL, the Oak Ridge Local Oversight Committee, and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

Prior to the workshop, the Oral History Subcommittee developed a list of issues to address. During the event participants selected what they considered the most important ones to begin working on. Those included funding, finding a repository for the material, determining a managing organization, forming an advisory group to oversee the program, addressing legal and security concerns, formatting of the final product, and determining follow-up activities to the workshop.

While no specific decisions were made, groundwork was laid for formation of an advisory committee and a subsequent workshop to establish the support, foundation, and direction for the effort. The October 11 workshop provided an important first step in bringing cohesion to the various interests in the community on an issue of importance to the public and the DOE EM program as well.

## Melton Valley Closure Marks End of 10-Year ORSSAB Involvement

For many years the Melton Valley burial grounds posed the highest risk at the ORR to human health and the environment. In March 2007, DOE completed remedial actions in the valley, bringing the project to a close and ending a decade of ORSSAB involvement and oversight.

DOE's cleanup project for the valley included a wide array of complicated and difficult activities, such as hydraulic isolation through installation of multilayer caps; removal, treatment, and disposal of retrievable transuranic waste; and in situ grouting.

Beginning in January 1998 with its "End Use Recommendation for the Disposal Areas in Melton Valley," the board made 20 recommendations to DOE related to various aspects of Melton Valley cleanup. An inestimable number of hours were devoted by board members in

studying, debating, and writing recommendations on numerous issues related to the project and the acceptable end state for the area.

The remediation work was a huge undertaking that addressed 219 release sites over the course of six years at a cost of \$360 million. It could have cost as much as \$1.6 billion had all the waste been removed and shipped off site, but the board played an instrumental role in the decision to leave some relatively short-lived contamination in place in order to save taxpayers millions of dollars.

### **ORSSAB Sponsors Public Meeting on the Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review**

DOE is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in Oak Ridge each year cleaning up environmental contamination left from decades of nuclear enrichment and other activities. But how do you know it's working?



*About 50 people attended the public meeting on the Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review. The meeting was held May 9, 2007, at the DOE Information Center.*

The answers lie in an annual report and a rigorous review that occurs every five years. The annual report is the Remediation Effectiveness Report, and every five years it is expanded to include the Five-Year Review required by CERCLA.

Because the Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review is so important, ORSSAB made several recommendations about conducting a public meeting for it. A primary suggestion was to use an ORSSAB monthly meeting as a forum for the public meeting.

DOE agreed and set the date for May 9, 2007. About 50 people attended the meeting, which gave stakeholders an important forum to express their views on both the Remediation Effectiveness Report and the Five-Year Review.

### **Board Sees Implementation of Its Independent Verification Advice**

In early 2007 the fruits of an ORSSAB recommendation began to be realized. Millions are being spent at ETPP to dismantle scores of old buildings and prepare the site for eventual use as a private industrial park. But how receptive will industry be to locating in an area where DOE generated a plethora of hazardous and radioactive waste materials?

One way to help assuage concerns is to conduct an independent verification showing that cleanup requirements have been met and that the land and buildings are safe to use. In 2007 ORSSAB investigated the need and use of independent verification at ETPP and crafted a recommendation to DOE to employ the process at the site. DOE accepted that recommendation and contracted the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education to do the work. DOE has recently approved the institute's statement of work, as well as funding of \$234,000 per year for three years.

Many in the community feel that reindustrialization is the key to success at ETPP, and through ORSSAB initiative an important step is being taken to help achieve that success.

# Community Outreach

The goal of ORSSAB outreach is to achieve the board's mission as it relates to community involvement. To do this, ORSSAB invites public participation in a variety of board activities.



*From left: members Norman Mulvenon and Steve Stow discuss board activities with DOE Manager Gerald Boyd and Assistant Manager for EM Steve McCracken on January 22, 2007.*

## Meetings/Presentations

- Notices are placed in the *Federal Register*, *Oak Ridger*, and *Oak Ridge Observer* to inform the public of board and committee meetings.
- Monthly board meetings begin with a relevant EM-related presentation. This portion of the meeting is subsequently broadcast on local public access cable stations.



*The ORSSAB booth at the Secret City Festival brought together board members Sondra Sarten and Darryl Bonner (center) and former members Heather Cothron (left) and Donna Campbell (right).*

## Publications/Reports/Presentations

- The ORSSAB annual report is prepared and distributed to state legislators, government agencies, and local media and organizations to summarize annual board activities and

promote awareness of the board's mission.

- The board's *Advocate* newsletter is distributed quarterly to inform stakeholders about recent board activities and EM cleanup issues.
- Presentations are made by board members to local civic, educational, and government organizations to inform the public about the board and DOE cleanup activities.

## Special Events/Exhibits/Internet

- Members represent the board at events such as festivals and expos, where informational brochures and ORSSAB logo items are distributed to interested individuals.
- Educational materials, including teacher resources, are prepared to aid public understanding of cleanup and post-cleanup issues.



*Board members Tim Myrick, foreground, Norman Mulvenon, left, and Steve Stow (not shown) spent two class periods at Oak Ridge High School on March 8, 2007, educating students about the board and the Oak Ridge cleanup program.*

- Board members participate in high-profile awareness events, such as the teacher's workshop on the ORSSAB Stewardship Education Resource Kit, and plan new ways to reach out to the community.
- A toll free number (1-800-382-6938) and Web site ([www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab)) provide avenues for information.
- ORSSAB maintains a permanent exhibit at the American Museum of Science & Energy in Oak Ridge, using touch-screen kiosks, posters, and displays to tell the Oak Ridge cleanup story.

# Committees

## Board Finance

This committee has overall responsibility for budget prioritization for the board. With the approval of the Executive Committee and in accordance with ORSSAB bylaws, the Board Finance Committee sets budget targets for each type of expenditure, proposes general budget guidance, determines funding availability for travel requests, and reviews monthly costs.

FY 2007 members: Steve Dixon (chair), Ben Adams (vice chair), Norman Mulvenon.

## Board Process Ad Hoc

This committee reviews the Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, and Standing Rules; meeting structure; standards and formats for submitting recommendations and comments to DOE; new member training; retreat planning; and processes for preparing the board work plan.

FY 2007 members: Steve Douglas (chair), Norman Mulvenon.

## Environmental Management

The mission of this committee is to evaluate and make recommendations on DOE's planning and implementation of ORR environmental restoration projects and on the treatment, storage, disposal, and transportation of wastes and materials for which the DOE-Oak Ridge EM program is responsible.

FY 2007 members: Rhonda Bogard (chair), Tim Myrick (vice chair), Darryl Bonner, Steve Douglas, Hubert Gibson, Sarah Lewis, Gloria Mei, Lance Mezga, Norman Mulvenon, Ron Murphree, Robert Olson, Sandy Reagan.

## Executive

General board business is handled by the Executive Committee, which is composed of the elected officers of the board and the

standing committee chairs. The committee holds authority to set board agendas, coordinate the work of the committees, and transact business as necessary between regular board meetings.

FY 2007 members: Lance Mezga (chair), Norman Mulvenon (vice chair), Steve Douglas (secretary, September 2006–January 2007), Ben Adams (secretary, February–August 2007), Rhonda Bogard, Darryl Bonner, Steve Dixon.

## Oral History Ad Hoc

This ad hoc committee was formed to explore the possibility of facilitating an oral history program for the ORR.

FY 2007 members: Steve Stow (lead), Rhonda Bogard, Donna Campbell, Norman Mulvenon.

## Public Outreach

The Public Outreach Committee is responsible for finding ways to educate and inform the public about the EM program and ORSSAB's mission and accomplishments. It does this through publications, presentations, briefings, displays, and exhibits.

FY 2007 members: Steve Stow (chair), Heather Cothron (vice chair), Mike Haygood, Norman Mulvenon, Jan Teague, Kevin Westervelt.

## Stewardship

This committee serves as a forum for discussion of topics relevant to the long-term stewardship of the ORR and as a liaison between DOE and the community. This latter aspect is becoming increasingly important as the committee also acts as a *pro tem* Citizen's Board for Stewardship until DOE appoints a formal board.

FY 2007 members: Darryl Bonner (chair), Donna Campbell (vice chair), Ben Adams, Heather Cothron, Ashlyn Hall, Ted Lundy, Norman Mulvenon, Sean Purdy, Sondra Sarten.

# Board Meetings

ORSSAB meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge. Each meeting features a presentation like the ones described below. Board meetings also include regular business items, such as approval of recommendations, and status reports from DOE, EPA, TDEC, and the various ORSSAB committees. The public is always welcome to attend and participate. In FY 2007, 112 members of the public attended ORSSAB meetings.

## September 13, 2006

*Program: EM Program Activities for the U-233 Project at ORNL.* Building 3019 has been used as a storage facility for uranium-233 since 1962. The uranium stored there has been declared excess inventory, and Congress has directed DOE EM to dispose of it. DOE Federal Facility Agreement Program Manager Dave Adler reported at the meeting that the uranium is to be downblended with depleted uranium for final disposal.



*Mike Hughes, president and general manager of Bechtel Jacobs, gives a program update at the November 8, 2006, meeting.*

## October 11, 2006

*Program: "...And Some of the Cowboys Wore White Hats: Disposal of Liquid Nuclear Waste at the ORR During the Manhattan Project."* Board member Steve Stow provided evidence to show that even though there was urgency to build an atomic bomb during World War II, researchers

were concerned about the health and safety of individuals and the environment.

## November 8, 2006

*Program: EM Program Update.* Mike Hughes of Bechtel Jacobs Company and Steve McCracken, DOE assistant manager for EM, gave presentations on the status of the environmental cleanup on the ORR.

## December 13, 2006

No presentation was given at the December meeting so the board could concentrate on adopting revised bylaws.



## January 10, 2007

*Sara Lewis of Oak Ridge High School presents the Recommendation on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for Ponds at ETPP at the October 11, 2006, board meeting.*

## Program: Independent Verification

*of Cleanup at ETPP.* Scott Kirk of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education gave a presentation on how cleanup of ETPP would be verified. He said the verification would include in-process inspections to assess conformance with survey commitments specified by the record of decision for cleanup of the site.

## February 14, 2007

*Program: DOE National Low-Level/Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposition Strategy.* Michael Torbert from DOE Headquarters briefed the board on DOE's plans to dispose low-level and mixed low-level wastes around the DOE complex. Mr. Torbert reviewed the strategies for each waste type according to project complexity and risk.

**March 14, 2007**

*Program: EM Budget Update.* Steve McCracken briefed the board on the development of the EM budget for FY 2009. At the time, the federal government was operating under a continuing resolution, meaning departments were using FY 2006 budget figures for FY 2007.



*Tim Myrick and student representative Ashlyn Hall discuss one of the many posters at the May 9, 2007, public meeting on the 2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report.*

**April 11, 2007**

*Program: Remaining Cleanup Scope on the ORR.* DOE's Federal Facility Agreement Manager Dave Adler gave an overview of work that remains to be completed on the ORR under the project known as Balance of Program. The program includes work to be done on or near Y-12 and ORNL. He discussed work that had

already been done, decision documents in place to begin work, and future cleanup activities.

**May 9, 2007**

*Program: Public Meeting on the 2006 Remediation Effectiveness Report/CERCLA Five-Year Review.* The board's May meeting provided the forum for the public meeting at which DOE presented the document (see story on Page 9).

**June 2007**

The board did not meet in June.

**July 11, 2007**

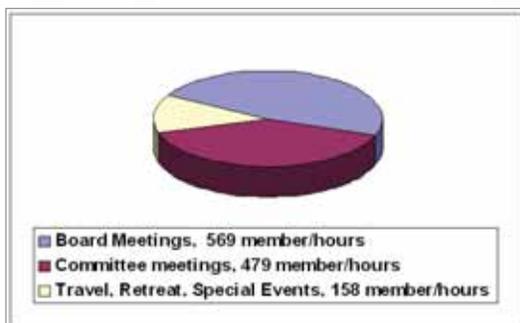
*Program: Federal Facility Agreement Appendices E and J Milestone Process.* Dave Adler explained how milestones are developed for work to be done on the ORR and what elements went into Appendices E and J of the Federal Facility Agreement. He explained that Appendix E contains milestones that are enforceable by EPA and TDEC for a one year period. Appendix J is a list of non-enforceable milestones for years beyond the enforceable milestones.

**August 11, 2007**

The board held its annual planning retreat at Rothchild Catering in Knoxville to review accomplishments for the year and plan for FY 2008. After the retreat, the board convened for a brief business meeting to elect officers.

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## Service Hours Contributed to DOE by ORSSAB Members



This graphic shows that ORSSAB members spent over 1200 hours in FY 2007 achieving the board's mission of providing informed advice and recommendations to DOE. This figure does not include time spent away from meetings writing recommendations and studying DOE-related materials. All board members and student representatives serve on a volunteer basis, without compensation.

# Members



ORSSAB members, liaisons, and student representatives. Seated, left to right: Mike Haygood, Gloria Mei, Sondra Sarten, Rhonda Bogard, Hubert Gibson (Student Representative), Jan Teague. Standing, left to right: Bill Bass, John Owsley (TDEC Liaison), Pat Halsey (DOE Federal Coordinator), Steve Dixon (Vice chair), Ted Lundy (Secretary), Bob Olson, Kevin Westervelt, Dave Adler (DOE Liaison), Lance Mezga (Chair), David Martin, Charles Jensen, David Branch, Ron Murphree, Darryl Bonner, Steve McCracken (DOE Deputy Designated Federal Officer), Ben Adams. Not pictured: John Coffman, Ashlyn Hall (Student Representative), Tim Myrick, Steve Stow, Connie Jones (EPA Liaison).

Following are ORSSAB members who served all or part of the year during FY 2007.

**Ben Adams** is a registered professional engineer, landscape architect, and land surveyor. He is employed by ACHW, Inc. Ben lives in Oak Ridge and is a member and past chairman of the East Tennessee Economic Council.

**Bill Bass** is retired from Sears Holdings Corporation after 39 years in senior management. He currently volunteers with the American Red Cross, where he serves as a liaison for governmental agencies and as a disaster services instructor. Bill resides in Lenoir City.

**Rhonda Bogard** is manager of RADCON Dosimetry and Records for BWXT Y-12. An Oak Ridge resident, she is involved with various hiking clubs and Jewish community activities.

**Darryl Bonner** is employed by Bechtel Jacobs as the emergency management task lead. He is an engineer with experience in facility man-

agement, pollution prevention, and industrial hygiene. Darryl resides in Oak Ridge.

**David Branch** lives in Knoxville and is employed by the U.S. Postal Service there, where he has worked for the past 11 years. He was previously employed in the health care field.

**Donna Campbell** is a librarian for Tetra Tech EC in Oak Ridge. She is also an instructor at Mount Pisgah Christian Academy, she teaches 3rd grade Sunday school, and she volunteers with local public libraries. Donna lives in Harriman.

**John Coffman** is the president of DeNuke Services in Oak Ridge, which provides technical support to DOE contractors. He is a Certified Health Physicist and has worked in radioactive waste management and remediation activities for over 25 years. John lives in Clinton.

**Heather Cothron** is employed by SAIC as an engineer at ORNL. She is a registered environmental manager, with a focus on environmen-

tally preferable products and systems. Heather is a resident of Oliver Springs.

**Steve Dixon** is the owner of Spectra Environmental Group and has worked as the director of management for the Metro Knoxville Airport Authority and as the finance director for the Knoxville Community Development Corp. Steve is a Louisville resident.



*ORSSAB said farewell to four long-serving members at its July 2007 meeting. From left, Norman Mulvenon, Sandy Reagan, Heather Cothron, and Donna Campbell logged approximately 25 years of combined service.*

**Steve Douglas** of Oak Ridge is the senior environmental compliance specialist for CDM Federal Services in Oak Ridge and a reserve commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Hubert Gibson** is a student in the Oliver Springs High School class of 2008. He is a member of the Beta Club and Drama Club and has been recognized at the school's Academic Banquet for class accomplishments in Life Science and European History.

**Ashlyn Hall** is a senior at Oak Ridge High School, where she is an active member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and the Spanish Club. She also participates as a senior company member of the Appalachian Ballet Company.

**Mike Haygood** is a resource teacher at Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge and has served as President of the Oak Ridge Education Association for five years. Mike lives in Knoxville.

**Charles Jensen** is the owner and manager of Diversified Technologies, which manufactures, designs, and services wastewater treatment systems for nuclear power plants. He has founded three technology companies and is operating the third. Charles resides in Knoxville.

**Sarah Lewis** served as an ORSSAB student representative for the term May 2006–April 2007. She was a senior at Oak Ridge High School, where she was a National Honor Society member.

**Ted Lundy** taught in the U.T. College of Engineering and then joined the ORNL Metallurgy Division in 1957. Upon retirement from ORNL, he joined Tennessee Tech's Center for Manufacturing Research and became its director in 1989, retiring in 2000. Ted lives in Knoxville.

**David Martin** is a self-employed engineer who has worked on a wide range of power engineering assignments worldwide. He resides in Harriman, where he operates his family's farm, which is registered with the Tennessee Century Farms Program.

**Gloria Mei** is a radiation safety specialist at ORNL, where she manages and conducts program activities in radiological design and radiation control. She is the recipient of the Fermi Hatchet Award at Kansas State and a diplomate of the American Board of Health Physics. Gloria resides in Oak Ridge.

**Lance Mezga** lives in Knoxville and is employed by UT-Battelle as the project manager for environmental integration for new facilities development at ORNL. He has over 30 years experience in environmental and waste management.

**Norman Mulvenon** lives in Oak Ridge and is retired from EG&G ORTEC, where he held a series of positions in marketing and sales. He is the current chair of the Citizens Advisory Panel of the Local Oversight Committee.



*Outgoing ORSSAB student representatives Sean Purdy and Sarah Lewis were presented awards of service and a cake at the April 11, 2007, board meeting.*

**Ron Murphree** is a registered engineer and certified professional estimator with 25 years of construction-related experience. Since 1996 he has been the chief estimator for Denark Construction Co. in Knoxville, where he lives.

**Tim Myrick** is the former director of facilities strategic planning for UT-Battelle. He has also worked in the environmental restoration and waste management fields. Tim is a resident of Powell.

**Bob Olson** is a retired nuclear engineer who lives in Clinton. He worked at the Savannah River Laboratory as an experimental physicist and probabilistic risk analyst, and as a nuclear licensing engineer for Sargent and Lundy.

**Sean Purdy** served an ORSSAB student representative for the term May 2006–April 2007. He was a senior at Webb School of Knoxville, where he was leader of the Spanish Club.

**Sandy Reagan** is a senior project manager for S&ME, Inc. Sandy holds a State of Tennessee

teaching certification for biology, chemistry, physics, and general science, and she is an associate real estate broker. Sandy lives in Maryville.

**Sondra Sarten** is the owner of RS Construction and Fabrication in Lenoir City, which provides metal products and construction services to a variety of organizations, including DOE. Sondra is a Lenoir City resident.

**Steve Stow** is recently retired from UT-Battelle, where he worked as director of the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge. He is the author or coauthor of over 70 publications and reports. Steve lives in Knoxville.

**Jan Teague** is a member of the Tennessee Trail Association and the Sierra Club, and is a former board member of the Knoxville/Knox County Central Business Improvement District. She worked for 30 years in the tourism industry. Jan lives in Lake City.



*Participating in the September 16, 2006, new member tour of the ORR are, from left: Ron Murphree, Dave Adler (DOE-Oak Ridge), Steve Stow, and Sondra Sarten.*

**Kevin Westervelt** is the civil/structural engineering department manager at Mesa Associates in Knoxville. He is a member of the Tennessee Structural Engineers Association and has 25 years of experience in civil/structural engineering. He resides in Knoxville.

# Abbreviations

CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EM	Environmental Management
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ETTP	East Tennessee Technology Park
FY	fiscal year
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORR	Oak Ridge Reservation
ORSSAB	Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
TDEC	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
TRU	transuranic
Y-12	Y-12 National Security Complex

