

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY • ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM • JULY 2003

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) is an independent, nonpartisan volunteer citizens' panel that provides advice and recommendations to



the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on its Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) Environmental Management (EM) Program. The group was chartered in 1995.

The Board is dedicated to providing informed recommendations and advice to DOE regarding environmental restoration, waste management, future land use of contaminated areas, and economic development of specified areas. Recommendations concerning health and safety, environmental justice, and other topics may be included as the Board determines appropriate. The Board is also committed to serving as a communication link between the public and the DOE EM Program.

The Board is composed of up to 20 members, chosen to reflect the diversity of gender, race, occupation, and interests of persons living near the ORR. Nonvoting members include representatives from the DOE Oak Ridge Operations (DOE-ORO); the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4; and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. These members advise the Board on their respective agency's policies and views. The Board also has two nonvoting student representatives chosen from local high schools to represent the views and interests of area youth.

What Are SSABs?

SSABs (also called Citizens Advisory Boards at some sites) were developed to involve stakeholders more directly in DOE cleanup decisions. Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, DOE has one SSAB. Nine site boards are under the SSAB

umbrella at the following DOE sites: Fernald, Hanford, Idaho, Los Alamos, Nevada, Oak Ridge, Paducah, Rocky Flats, and Savannah River (see map below).

What Do the Local Site Boards Do?

The local site boards provide DOE with policy information, advice, and recommendations concerning environmental restoration, waste management, and technology development activities. They provide input and recommendations on difficult and sometimes controversial national and site-specific issues such as future use, risk management, cleanup levels, economic development, and budget prioritization



SSABs are chartered at 9 major DOE sites across the nation.



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board, continued

activities. Since their inception, local site boards have helped establish public trust and confidence in the EM Program and DOE.

Who Serves on the Local Site Boards?

Local site board membership, which reflects a full diversity of views, cultures, and demographics from affected communities and regions, is composed primarily of people who are directly affected by site cleanup activities. Members include stakeholders from local governments, Tribal Nations, environmental and civic groups, labor organizations, universities, industry, and other interested parties. DOE, EPA, and state governments serve as ex officio members on local boards.

What Are Local Site Board Responsibilities?

The local site board responsibilities include the following:

- Submitting advice and recommendations to DOE on key EM issues.
- Representing and voicing the diversity of community views.
- Keeping the public informed on key issues and board recommendations.

What Are DOE Responsibilities?

DOE-ORO provides administrative and technical support as well as guidance to the board on priority issues for the site. Specifically, DOE must

- keep the boards informed about key issues and upcoming decisions,
- request recommendations well in advance of DOE deadlines,
- consider and respond in a timely manner to all board recommendations, and
- provide adequate funding for administrative and technical support.

How Can You Get Involved?

ORSSAB meets monthly to hear presentations on EM activities of interest, consider recommendations to DOE presented by the various ORSSAB committees, hear input from concerned citizens, and conduct other business. All meetings are open to the public, and notices are posted on the Board's Web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab; at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge; in the *Federal Register* and area newspapers; and through the Board's 24-hour information line (865-576-4750).

Agendas and background information are also available at the DOE Information Center one week prior to each board meeting. All board meetings are video recorded, and copies of the tapes are available for public review at the DOE Information Center. The first hour of each meeting is broadcast on channel 12 in local cable television markets.

General board business is handled at the monthly Executive Committee meeting. The committee, which is composed of the elected officers of the board and the committee leaders, holds general administrative authority to set work plans and agendas, coordinate the work of committees, and transact business as may be necessary between regular meetings. ORSSAB also has several standing committees that serve as forums where EM issues are studied and debated. All committee meetings are open to all board members and the public.

All meeting times and locations are available through the ORSSAB information line, the board's web site, and the DOE Information Center.

For More Information

For more information, contact ORSSAB at (865) 576-1590, or visit the ORSSAB web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.