



Issue 27  
July 2007

# ADVOCATE

## DOE, Regulators Resolve Dispute Over FFA Milestones

The Department of Energy-Oak Ridge (DOE) has resolved a formal dispute with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) over cleanup milestones in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA).

The FFA was signed by DOE, EPA, and TDEC in 1991 to ensure that cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation is scheduled and performed to meet all state and federal environmental requirements. Included with the FFA are Appendices E and J, which contain milestones and planning time frames for the requisite cleanup projects.

Appendix E contains enforceable milestones that have been agreed to by the three FFA parties. Appendix J contains the DOE-projected, non-enforceable milestones three years beyond the current fiscal year (FY+3). Each January or February the FFA signatories come together to discuss the FY+2 budget request being prepared by DOE and to prioritize the project planning for the three years and beyond time frame. From those discussions, Appendix J is developed by DOE.

The disagreement was over the FY 2009 milestones in the Appendix E and budget requests, which EPA and TDEC interpreted as affecting the scheduled completion of cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation agreed to by DOE when the Accelerated Cleanup Plan Agreement was signed in June 2002.

It began in January 2006 when the three parties met to talk about the FY 2008 budget request and milestone priorities. Although the priorities were discussed and agreed to, EPA and TDEC say that in March 2006 DOE incorporated those priorities as Appendix J milestones without EPA's and TDEC's review or approval.

John Owsley, director of TDEC's DOE Oversight Division, said the state does not accept unilateral decisions by DOE on cleanup and compliance. "The FFA is a three-party agreement, and the state expects all three parties to be involved in those discussions," said Owsley.

Then in September 2006, per the FFA language and in reaction to the congressional budget activities and rumors of a year-long continuing resolution proposal for 2007, DOE informed EPA and TDEC of changes to Appendix J planning milestones that eliminated a number of FY 2009 milestones for Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 from the version DOE had placed into the March Appendix J. Elimination of those milestones may have resulted in a delay to the date of completed cleanup of the reservation. Those planning milestones included:

- Waste Handling Plans for the Y-12 Salvage Yard Scrap Removal and several projects in Bethel Valley: Small Facilities Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D), Chemical Development Lab Facilities, D&D of Isotope Area Facilities, D&D of Tank Area Facilities, D&D of Isotope Area Facilities (3026 C/D).
- Remedial Design Report for Upper East Fork Poplar Creek (UEFPC) West End Mercury Area.
- Remedial Action Work Plans for Y-12 Salvage Yard Scrap Removal and UEFPC West End Mercury Area.
- Action Memorandum for Alpha 4 D&D at Y-12.

EPA and TDEC responded by providing a list of milestones to be placed in Appendix E for FY 2009. That list included everything

*continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE

RER Meeting .....	3
Member News .....	4
Recommendations .....	5
Chairs Meeting .....	5
Reservation Update .....	6
Member Profile: Ben Adams .....	7
Snapshots in Oak Ridge Cleanup History .....	7
Oral Histories Subcommittee .....	8

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

## DOE, Regulator Dispute Resolved *continued from page 1*

DOE had eliminated for FY 2009 plus a couple EPA and TDEC added.

On October 1, 2006, DOE rolled the FY+3 Appendix J milestones into the Appendix E for FY+2 (2009) enforceable milestones with the changes proposed by DOE during September.

For several months into FY 2007 the federal government was operating on a continuing resolution, meaning it had money to spend based on FY 2006 appropriations. Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak Ridge Office Assistant Manager for Environmental Management, said at the March 2007 ORSSAB meeting that the continuing resolution presented real problems to the program. First, without knowing what would be available for FY 2007, it could affect milestones agreed to for the fiscal year and the subsequent years.

He also said it made developing future budgets difficult. "To plan for budgets two or three years away it's necessary to know what is available to be spent during the current and subsequent year."

But at the same meeting, Owsley said the funds DOE received under the continuing resolution were more than it would have gotten under the FY 2007 budget request, so that should not have been a reason for missing milestones in FY 2007. He also said there were fewer restrictions on using the money because Congress removed earmarks. "The decision on where the money is being spent is not a shared decision among the three parties of the FFA," he said. "Those decisions are being made unilaterally by DOE, and TDEC will oppose all unilateral decisions."

Owsley said that he had been told by DOE Headquarters staff that DOE did not request sufficient funding to meet the complex-wide compliance milestones in FY 2008. He said TDEC opposes renegotiating milestones if insufficient funding is requested.

On March 13, 2007, the day before the ORSSAB meeting where McCracken and Owsley stated their positions, DOE notified EPA and TDEC, at their request, that it would not submit the annual Appendix J March 15 update as set forth in the FFA. While DOE said it could provide a time frame for submittal, EPA and TDEC responded by saying DOE did not request an extension in accordance with the FFA.

DOE said the delay was strictly based upon an understanding that TDEC and EPA did not want the Appendix J submittal until the FY funding allocation was received and its impacts known. DOE subsequently submitted the Appendix J milestones in question.

But the regulators were not impressed. Citing a section of the FFA, EPA and TDEC fined DOE \$45,000 for failing to submit Appendix J by the deadline.

By this time, DOE, EPA, and TDEC had been in informal dispute over the FY+2 (2009) enforceable milestones since the October 1 time frame. EPA and TDEC informed DOE in April 2007 that they were invoking the FFA formal dispute resolution process. According to the FFA, a formal dispute is sent to a dispute resolution committee, which consists of McCracken for DOE; Franklin Hill, the acting director of EPA's Superfund Division in Atlanta; and Charles Head, the senior director of land programs for TDEC.

The committee met in Chattanooga on May 8. While no agreement was reached, some progress was made. At the time Owsley said TDEC and EPA agreed to renegotiate some FY 2007-09 ETTP milestones hoping DOE would agree to more milestones in 2009.

But since the three couldn't come to a full agreement, the dispute was elevated to another level that included Gerald Boyd, DOE manager of the Oak

Ridge Reservation; Jim Fyke, TDEC commissioner; and James Palmer, the regional administrator of EPA.

Finally the three worked out an agreement that was signed on May 31. The resolution states that the FFA parties will continue a FY+3 planning process that will result in Appendix J milestones acceptable to all.

DOE agreed to submit any Appendix J revisions to EPA and TDEC for review and concurrence prior to placing in the FFA. DOE agreed also to add the disputed 2009 milestones noted earlier in the Appendix E enforceable milestones.

All three parties agreed to a 'good faith' renegotiation of all FY 2007-09 Appendix E milestones for closure work at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). All agreed that milestones for ETTP would remain in effect unless modified. DOE remains committed to achieving the 2016 finished cleanup date established by the Accelerated Cleanup Plan.

And in consideration of the resolution of the disagreement, EPA and TDEC agreed to withdraw the \$45,000 fine for missing the deadline of submitting the Appendix J update.

Regarding renegotiation of milestones at ETTP, Owsley said only one has been changed thus far, that being the removal of excess equipment at K-25, which has been changed from June 30, 2007, to March 2008.

While the formal dispute has been resolved, discussions continue on cleanup priorities, and the question of sufficient funding for FY 2009 ETTP milestones lingers. For now, according to McCracken, there appears to be enough 2009 budget meet those disputed milestones added to Appendix E for work at ORNL and Y-12.

# ORSSAB Cosponsors Meeting on Five-Year Review

The DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program unveiled its CERCLA 2006 Five-Year Review at a public meeting on May 9 at the DOE Information Center. The meeting followed an abbreviated Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meeting. The board, which recommended that DOE use the time and place of a board meeting to present the public meeting, co-sponsored the event. About 50 people attended.

To determine if remediation techniques used at contaminated sites are working, the Tennessee Department for Environment and Conservation, EPA, and DOE established methods to assess effectiveness. These methods include annual Remediation Effectiveness Reports and every fifth year a comprehensive CERCLA Five-Year Review. Only the Five-Year Review is required by CERCLA. DOE-Oak Ridge takes the extra step of reviewing the effectiveness of remediation techniques yearly.

“While the annual report evaluates if the remedy is working as planned, the Five-Year Review evaluates whether that chosen remedy is still appropriate under today’s conditions,” said Jason Darby, DOE program manager for developing the report. “The public meeting is a chance for the public to hear how the remedies are performing,

ask questions, and provide DOE with feedback on our cleanup efforts.”

The overall story of the Five-Year Review, according to DOE’s Dave Adler, who delivered the main meeting presentation, is that remedies on the reservation remain protective of human health and the environment, and contamination beyond the



*Dave Adler from DOE-Oak Ridge provides details on the CERCLA Five-Year Review at the May 9 public meeting.*

boundaries of the reservation are below acceptable levels or subject to measures that prevent exposure to contamination. “In general things are getting better through natural processes and engineered measures,” said Adler. “Contamination levels in surface water and soil are decreasing.”

Adler mentioned several examples where contamination rates are decreasing, some dramatically, including contaminant levels in fish in Watts Bar Lake, the Boneyard/Burnyard at Y-12 National Security Complex, mercury contamination in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek at Y-12, and the Melton Valley remediation project at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Adler said at Melton Valley remediation goals projected for 10 years away are already being achieved within a year after the project was finished.

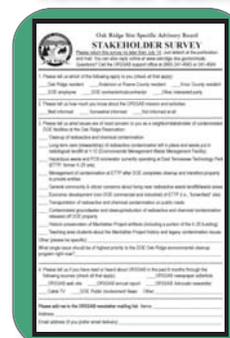
For the most part, contaminated sites on the reservation are remediated in place. But there are a few sites that have been cleaned up that are not within the boundaries of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Adler said at those locations the preferred method of remediation is removal of the contamination source rather than containment through engineered caps or other techniques.

The issue of groundwater contamination is more complicated. Adler said the current focus of remediation around the reservation is on source control of contamination. That approach should prevent further damage to tainted groundwater, but decisions to remediate groundwater will be made in years to come. “Remediating groundwater is a very difficult thing,” said Adler. “It’s much easier to contaminate it than it is to clean it up.”

During the public meeting Adler gave a brief summary of what has been done to date. After a question and answer period, participants visited with DOE and contractor personnel around the meeting room at poster stations that detailed specific remediation techniques and results of various projects.

Paper copy and CD versions of the report are available at the DOE Information Center, (865) 241-4780.

## Take Our Stakeholder Survey



We’d like to hear your concerns and opinions regarding environmental management issues at the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation. Please take a moment to complete our survey online at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/survey](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/survey).



## Comments? Suggestions?

Send them to us via our web site at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/comments.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/comments.htm)

## Board Loses Four Long-Time Members

ORSSAB will say farewell to four long-serving members at its July meeting. Donna Campbell, Heather Cothron, Sandy Reagan, and Norman Mulvenon will leave the board after approximately 25 years of combined service.



*Clockwise from top left: ORSSAB members Donna Campbell, Heather Cothron, Norman Mulvenon, and Sandy Reagan.*

Donna leaves with the most time served on the board – 10 years. She was a member of the first board in 1995 and served two two-year terms, ending in June 1999. She was appointed to the board again in July 2001 and served the full three terms allowed by ORSSAB bylaws. She has been a member of the Stewardship Committee and was board secretary in 1996 and 2003.

Heather joined the board in July 2001 and completed three two-year terms. She has been a member of the Environmental Management, Stewardship, and Public Outreach committees. She and Donna (along with several other ORSSAB members) worked on developing the board's Stewardship Education Resource Kit.

Sandy came on board in November 2004, filling an unexpired term. She has been a member of the Environmental Management Committee and served as 2006 board secretary.

Norman joined the board in January 2002, also by filling an unexpired term. He has been on all committees and served as the board vice chair this fiscal year. Norman became involved in the board through his work with the End Use Working Group, which published the *Final Report of the Oak Ridge Reservation*, and the Stewardship Working Group, which published the two-volume *Stakeholder Report on Stewardship*.

Even though they are leaving the board, retired members can still actively participate and vote on most of the ORSSAB standing committees, as can any member of the public.

You can learn more about Donna, Heather, and Norman by checking out their profiles the November 2006, January 2007, and April 2007 issues of the *Advocate* newsletter on the ORSSAB website at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/Publications/Advocates.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/Publications/Advocates.htm).

## ORSSAB Welcomes Two New Students

ORSSAB greeted its two new student representatives, Ashlyn Hall and Hubert Gibson, at its May 9 meeting.

Each year two high school students are seated on the board to represent the views and interests of area youth. One is selected from Oak Ridge High School, and the other is chosen on a rotating basis from surrounding areas.



Ashlyn is a rising 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 is also on the *Branching Out* art and literary magazine

staff and is an upcoming member of the select Ensemble Chorus. Ashlyn plays the violin, is a member of the First United Methodist Church youth choir, and participates as a senior company

member of the Appalachian Ballet Company.

Hubert is a rising senior at Oliver Springs High School, where he is a member of the Beta Club and the Drama Club. He attended the Materials Camp sponsored by the Oak Ridge Chapter of American Society of Metals last summer and joined a small group of students that turned their project into an award-winning poster for the International Metallographic Society. Hubert has a fellowship in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, where he works weekly after school with a graduate student.

Hubert's father is Luther Gibson, a former board member and chair.

## Recent Recommendations & Comments

*Complete recommendation text can be found on the ORSSAB web site at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/recc.htm).*

In June 2006, the combined chairs of the Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Boards (EM SSAB) recommended to the DOE Assistant Secretary for EM, James Rispoli, that the SSABs be included in future EM budget processes to assist in the establishment of priorities and funding levels for each site. The chairs requested that DOE-EM provide guidance to site managers in working with the SSABs to establish local EM budget priorities and allocations.

Rispoli agreed with the chairs and in July 2006 directed his staff to develop guidance for all site managers to include the SSABs in the budget process. Based on guidance from DOE Headquarters, Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak

Ridge Assistant Manager for EM, briefed the board on the FY 2007–2009 budgets at its March meeting.

McCracken said that reduced funding could impact scheduled milestones for cleanup, as set forth in the Federal Facility Agreement. He also noted that DOE-Oak Ridge had been directed by Congress to plan for the disposition of uranium-233 stored in Building 3019 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, but funding for the work had not been provided. He said that would result in other planned cleanup work being delayed, including the disposition of newly generated waste.

As a result of McCracken's presentation, ORSSAB submitted several comments and recommendations:

- The board found it unacceptable that sufficient funding was not

provided to meet agreed upon milestones. The board recommended that adequate funding be provided.

- The board also found it unacceptable that additional cleanup and security improvements associated with Building 3019 were mandated without funding. The board recommended that funding be provided to meet the needs of the Building 3019 project and the disposition of newly generated waste.
- Finally, the board strongly recommended that the Integrated Facilities Disposition Project be supported by DOE as a Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Compensation, and Liability Act project. It recommended that key projects within that scope be prioritized as part of the compliance agreement negotiations.

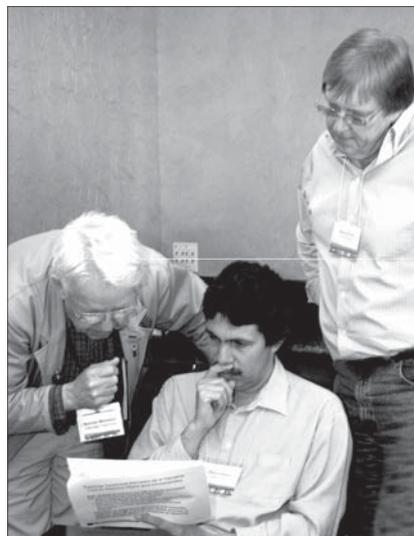
## Spring SSAB Chairs Meeting Held in Las Vegas

The spring meeting of the EM SSAB chairs was held March 27-30 in Las Vegas, Nev. Twice a year the chairs of the seven SSABs gather to share common issues and hear presentations on various EM-related topics. Steve Dixon, Steve Stow, and Norman Mulvenon represented the Oak Ridge board at the meeting.

The featured speaker was DOE Assistant Secretary for EM James Rispoli, whose presentation was on solving cleanup challenges through risk reduction. He said priorities included safe and effective risk reduction of cleanup, robust project management, and finding high-performing industry partners.

Other speakers included Fred Butterfield of EPA, who discussed the Federal Advisory Committee Act – the legislation that authorizes establishment of advisory boards

such as the EM SSAB. DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Technology Mark Gilbertson reviewed strategies to address waste processing, groundwater and soil



*Left to right: Norman Mulvenon, Dave Adler, and Steve Dixon at the chairs meeting.*

remediation, and decontamination and decommissioning.

Dave Moody, manager of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, gave an overview of plant operations. He described the differences between contact-handled and remote-handled transuranic wastes, the remote-handled disposition process, the volumes of waste disposed at the plant so far, and transportation of wastes to the plant.

Dennis Ferrigno, vice-chair of the EM Advisory Board (EMAB), briefed the group on the background, mission, membership, and focus of EMAB. EMAB is similar to the SSAB but has more of a corporate focus. Ferrigno said EMAB would like to have more interaction with the SSABs through dialogue, sharing recommendations, and participating in public meetings.

# Reservation Update

## Milestone Reached at ETPP's K-770 Scrap Yard

A cleanup milestone was reached in April with the removal of more than 48,000 tons of radioactive scrap from the K-770 Scrap Yard near East Tennessee Technology Park.

The last shipment left the site on April 13 and was disposed of at the on-site waste cell on Bear Creek Road near the Y-12 National Security Complex.

This phase of the project took more than three years and cost \$16.4 million.

Some work remains to be done. Some equipment still requires disposal, and 23,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil must be removed. Excavation work, including a section of the Clinch River floodplain, will begin in 2008.

For the most part, the scrap removal went well, with no lost-time injuries. But workers were surprised to find three casks containing cesium-137. It's not clear when the casks were placed in the junk pile, but they have since been transported to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where they will be analyzed and a decision made on final disposal.

## U-233 has New Guardian at Building 3019

Isotek Systems will take responsibility for processing the stockpile of uranium-233 stored in Building 3019 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The company has passed a readiness review that allows it to eventually downblend the U-233 with U-238 to prevent criticality. That is not expected to begin for several years, however. Once downblending is complete the uranium will be put in safe storage.

Before processing can begin, a baseline for the project must be established, and some work must be done on the

building. The project is expected to last until about 2015 and cost approximately \$379 million.

The uranium was a topic of controversy between DOE-Oak Ridge and some who opposed the disposal of the uranium because medical isotopes were being extracted from it. DOE said it was directed by Congress to cancel isotope extraction and dispose of the remaining uranium.

## Preparations Continue to Resume Work at MSRE

It's had its share of starts and stops, but preparations to resume work at the Molten Salt Reactor Experiment continue, albeit behind schedule.

Bechtel Jacobs Company, DOE's contractor for the work, and DOE itself have been conducting operational readiness reviews in preparation to resume work to remove fuel salts from two tanks at the shutdown reactor. Work was stopped about a year ago when a fluorine leak was detected.

The original schedule called for the uranium fuel salts to be removed from the tanks by the end of September 2007. That has been delayed until near the end of the calendar year.

Draining the tanks has been a headache for both Bechtel Jacobs and DOE. The work has been slowed or stopped by technical problems and personnel issues, as well as difficulties getting ready to resume the work.

## Macroencapsulated Waste Sent to Nevada Test Site

The first shipment of macroencapsulated waste left the Oak Ridge Reservation in April bound for the DOE Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas.

Macroencapsulation is a transportation method recently approved by

EPA as an alternative for transporting mixed waste (waste containing both radioactive and hazardous constituents). Drums of waste are loaded six at a time into large containers 7 ½ feet long, 4 feet high, and 5 feet wide. The containers are filled with polyurethane foam to surround the drums, and the container lids are sealed using low heat to bond the lid to the container liner.

According to Tony Buhl of EnergX, which developed the process, the technique improves the safety of transporting bulk-packaged hazardous waste by reducing the chance of fire that could occur from other techniques, such as welding. EnergX is also the contractor processing the waste for disposal.

Some of the waste has been in storage at ORNL since the 1950s, and some of it has been brought to Oak Ridge for processing from Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, Tenn.

## Demolition of K-1401 is Underway Again

Razing of the big K-1401 building at ETPP has begun again. Demolition of the building, once known as the Conditioning Plant, began in August 2006, but work was stopped until recently because of budget constraints.

The 10-acre, two-story building was used as a site where processing equipment for the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant was treated to prevent corrosion by hexafluoride gas during the uranium enrichment process.

After all the process equipment was installed in K-25, K-1401 housed a variety of operations, such as machine and carpentry shops, equipment cleaning operations, and research facilities. If all goes well the building could be gone by October.

# Member Profile: Ben Adams

Often when Ben Adams calls the ORSSAB office he identifies himself simply as the ‘dirt digger.’ His qualifications go well beyond that distinction.

Ben is a native of Nashville, where he attended Vanderbilt University, graduating in 1956 with a degree in civil engineering.



*Ben at one of his company's work sites in Oak Ridge.*

He spent three years as a Navy officer. When he returned to Nashville on medical leave he met his future wife, Connie, who was a nursing student at Vanderbilt. Connie is an Oak Ridge native. Her father was the publisher of the “Oak Ridger” newspaper.

Ben says he was encouraged by a number of people to come to Oak Ridge and set up an engineering firm since there was no private civil engineering company in town other than a small company operated by George Crouch, which was set up as a sideline while he worked full time at Y-12.

Ben met with Crouch, and in a few hours they had formed Crouch and Adams, Inc. The company has since evolved into Adams, Craft, Herz, and Walker, Inc., an architectural, engineering, planning, and surveying company.

During his career as a civil engineer, registered land surveyor, and registered landscape architect, Ben has worked

with numerous clients, including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, the National Park Service, the Corps of Engineers, the Tennessee Valley Authority, DOE, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

A couple of years before he was appointed to ORSSAB, Ben was asked to speak to the group on the role of private engineering in society. “After that someone said I’d be a good candidate for membership,” he said. “I wasn’t selected at the next round of appointments, but I was told to wait and I would be. Sure enough, I was appointed in 2002.”

Ben serves as board secretary. He has also chaired the Stewardship Committee. “My interest in stewardship lies in being a person who likes to go out and talk with people about stewardship and what it is,” he says. “I think Oak Ridge has the capability of becoming a national leader in stewardship.”

Ben has taken the message of stewardship in Oak Ridge on the road a couple of times to conferences, where he has presented a program on filing environmental notations in Anderson County land records on Oak Ridge Reservation parcels with waste left in place.

He sees his participation on ORSSAB as a way of providing community leadership in an area not connected with his daily life, “...something like giving to the arts rather than the sciences.”

Ben has a long list of community involvement endeavors, including Oak Ridge Rotary, the Arts Council

of Oak Ridge, the Knoxville Opera Company, Leadership Knoxville, the East Tennessee Economic Council, and Nine Counties—One Vision.

He is very interested in fostering a strong Oak Ridge economy and sense of Oak Ridge history. “I want to get out a believable story about the success of Oak Ridge for years to come.”

Ben enjoys playing the guitar and has been involved in the Museum of Appalachia’s folk festivals, where he has performed and acted as stage manager and master of ceremonies.

## Snapshots in Oak Ridge Cleanup History

### 10 years ago...

DOE issued its final Request for Proposal for the retrieval, treatment, and certification of transuranic wastes from the Oak Ridge Reservation. The request called for a private company to treat wastes onsite in Melton Valley. The contract, estimated to be worth about \$350 million over 11 years, was awarded to Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation in May 1998.

At Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a unique robotic system was employed to clean out radioactive liquids and sludge from the Gunite Tanks.

### 5 years ago...

Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced that a Letter of Intent had been signed by DOE, EPA, and the state of Tennessee to accelerate cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The Accelerated Cleanup Plan called for the completion of cleanup operations by 2016, with high-risk cleanup projects to be completed by 2008.

## Subcommittee Evaluates Involvement in Oral Histories

A new ORSSAB subcommittee has been formed to explore the possibility of facilitating an oral history program for the Oak Ridge Reservation.

According to board member Steve Stow, about 275 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 organization is managing a comprehensive oral history program,” he said. “There is no mechanism in place to manage an active oral history program in terms of cataloguing and transcribing tapes, identifying and interviewing people, and providing access to material to researchers and other interested parties.”

The subcommittee, consisting of Stow, Rhonda Bogard, Donna Campbell,

Norman Mulvenon, and Pat Halsey (the ORSSAB Federal Coordinator) is in the early stages of discussing what role ORSSAB could have in an oral history program.

The subcommittee has begun looking into funding options from several sources and how other DOE sites similar to Oak Ridge have conducted or are conducting oral histories.

The goal of the subcommittee is to recommend to ORSSAB what role, if any, the board should have in an oral history program.

Stow said there are three levels of involvement the board could consider. “One option would be a rather inactive and passive role where it (the board) might offer moral support and perhaps some level of funding to some other

organization that would administer the program,” he said.

“At another level the board could assume a more proactive role, handling virtually all aspects of the program but relying on other organizations for manpower.

“And a third choice would be some level of commitment between the two. For instance, the board might serve as a repository for tapes and transcripts, while another organization would conduct and transcribe interviews.”

The subcommittee is currently working on organizing a workshop involving several organizations and individuals interested in oral history to discuss funding, managing, storing, and sustaining a permanent, comprehensive program.

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

### JOIN US FOR OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### Board Meetings

- July 11, 6:00 pm – Presentation: Federal Facility Agreement Appendices E & J
- August 11, 8:00–4:30 – Annual Planning Retreat

#### Committee Meetings

- July 17, 5:30 pm – Stewardship
- July 18, 5:30 pm – Environmental Mgmnt.
- August 14, 5:30 pm – Stewardship
- August 15, 5:30 pm – Environmental Mgmnt.