



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Advisory Board Requests Periodic Information on Progress of DOE Cleanup Projects

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) has asked the Department of Energy-Oak Ridge Office (DOE-ORO) to provide periodic information related to cleanup activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The board has asked for specific information contained in quarterly project reports (QPRs) in order to be able to better track the progress of the various projects underway or planned. Availability of the information would help the board stay abreast of cleanup progress and aid in its deliberations regarding the DOE-ORO environmental management (EM) budget prioritization process.

ORSSAB is a federally appointed citizens' panel charged with providing advice and recommendations to the DOE Oak Ridge EM program on its cleanup of contaminated land, groundwater, and facilities on the reservation. It is one of eight similar boards (SSABs) around the country at DOE sites.

Typically DOE provides any information to the board or the public that is requested, assuming the information isn't classified for security reasons. However, DOE-EM at the headquarters level had cautioned site managers about providing QPRs in total to the SSABs because the reports are internal documents developed for DOE managers that may contain preliminary data or business sensitive information. The suggestion was made from EM Headquarters that SSABs request specific information within the reports that the site managers could share.

At its June meeting ORSSAB asked for information associated with major EM projects at several sites: East Tennessee Technology Park, the Transuranic Waste Processing Center, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Upper East Fork Poplar Creek, Bear Creek Valley, and Melton Valley, as well as information on work being done on the Building 3019/uranium-233 project at the lab and the waste disposal facility in Bear Creek Valley near the Y-12 National Security Complex.

In particular, the board asked DOE to identify the calendar year when funding associated with the major projects and related subprojects would be requested in the budget submittals. Additionally the board asked for funding changes or challenges at the on-going subproject level that could affect completion; technical issues that could affect completion; and any unresolved regulatory issues or milestone challenges.

ORSSAB is requesting this information in light of increased cleanup activity that will be generated as a result of \$755 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With that funding plus the normal baseline budget, the board wanted additional information that would allow them to be able to track activities from those separate funding mechanisms more effectively.

The full text of the recommendation is found on the ORSSAB website at <http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/Recommendations/FY2009/Recommendation179.pdf>.

ORSSAB meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge. The meetings are open to the public. For information, call (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584, or see www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.

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