



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Spencer Gross, 241-4584

July 27, 2010

Advisory Board Approves Three Recommendations for Department of Energy to Consider

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) had a busy night at its July meeting, approving three recommendations for the Department of Energy (DOE) to consider. ORSSAB is a federally chartered panel of citizen volunteers that provides advice and recommendations to the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program on its cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation. Areas of the reservation have radioactive or hazardous materials contamination as a result of decades of work in nuclear research and development.

The first recommendation dealt with the request for proposals for a new cleanup contractor for East Tennessee Technology Park and areas at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. At its June meeting ORSSAB received a briefing on the draft request from DOE personnel and heard comments on it by the City of Oak Ridge. An ORSSAB ad hoc committee also studied the draft and submitted specific recommendations, which the board approved on July 14 and sent to DOE.

The second set of recommendations was related to the annual Remediation Effectiveness Report. The report assesses and documents the effectiveness of completed remedial environmental actions on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The report evaluates the status of ongoing activities, reviews monitoring results, evaluates the effectiveness of remedial actions, reviews stewardship activities, and recommends any changes in monitoring.

Members of the ORSSAB Stewardship Committee reviewed sections of the first draft of the report and developed several specific recommendations on it, which the board approved.

Finally, the board suggested several topics of discussion for a planned conference on long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated areas in the DOE complex nationwide. The November conference in Grand Junction, Colo., is planned to discuss the many activities necessary to protect human health and the environment after cleanup and disposal of radioactive and hazardous materials.

Earlier the board had recommended that DOE endorse and participate in a nationwide long-term stewardship conference. Shortly after, it was learned that DOE's Office of Legacy Management was planning the surveillance and maintenance conference. DOE took ORSSAB's recommendation and expanded the Colorado conference to include a discussion of stewardship, particularly for

places like Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory that will continue to operate after cleanup work is completed.

ORSSAB suggested agenda topics include:

- Roles and responsibilities of the various stewards
- Transition from DOE's Environmental Management program to other entities after cleanup is completed to ensure long-term stewardship
- Funding for long-term stewardship
- Community involvement
- Availability of information on remediated sites

The agenda topics will be forwarded to the organizers of the Colorado conference for consideration.

ORSSAB meets at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN, at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public and an open comment period is provided. For additional information, visit www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab or call the support office at 865-241-4583 or 241-4584.