



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

NEWS RELEASE

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Oak Ridge Resident's Interest in Environment Led Her to Advisory Board

“Oak Ridge is my home and I plan on being here forever,” says Betty Jones, and her commitment to this community is why she has a particular interest in the local environment. “Because I live in Oak Ridge I’m concerned about making sure the area stays clean and no more contaminants are put in the environment here.”

Jones has had an interest in the environmental sciences for a long time, and she found a way to pursue that interest as a member of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. “I wanted to be a part of the board to gain additional knowledge about DOE’s Environmental Management (EM) Program. I had studied environmental science and wanted to learn more about what was going on in Oak Ridge,” she said.



Betty Jones is employed by B&W Technical Services Y-12 as an Operations Support Specialist.

The advisory board is a federally chartered citizens’ panel that provides advice and recommendations to the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge EM Program. EM is responsible for cleaning up the those areas of the department’s Oak Ridge Reservation that have been contaminated with radioactive or hazardous materials as a result of nuclear weapons development and nuclear energy research.

Jones has lived in the area all her life, growing up in the Solway community and attending Karns High School. She moved to Oak Ridge in 1970 and went to work at the Y-12 National Security Complex in 1980 and has been there ever since. “I started out as a machine cleaner and then worked as a chemical operator from September 1998 to October 2005. I went back to school and earned an associate’s degree from Roane State Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational management from Tusculum College. After I got my degree I became a manager as an operational support specialist.”

She joined the board in July 2008 and first served on the Board Finance & Process Committee and later moved over to the EM Committee. “I knew what was going on in EM at Y-12 since I work there, but that was limited to Y-12. I didn’t have a lot of knowledge about what was going

on at ETTP (East Tennessee Technology Park) and Oak Ridge National Lab except what I knew from family and friends that worked there.”

After a stint with the EM Committee, Jones decided to try the Public Outreach Committee. She has served as the vice-chair and is currently the chair of the committee. She’s also a member of the Stewardship Committee and is on the Executive Committee by virtue of being the chair of Public Outreach.

“Being a board member has been very much worthwhile for me. It’s enlightened me as to what’s going on with D&D (decontamination and decommissioning) work. It’s given me insight on the D&D process at ETTP and the lab as well. When you work at one plant you don’t really know what’s happening at the others. I wouldn’t have had that knowledge otherwise. I’ve really gained a lot of knowledge about the work at all three sites.”

Her service as a board member is not the only volunteer work Jones does. “We have a Volunteer Day here at Y-12 and I work with the human resources offices on different volunteer projects.” Jones has three grown children and eight grandchildren. “I like spending time with them, plus I like to walk and crochet, when I have the time.”

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. For information see www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.