



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

## **Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Two-year Tenure as Board Chair Has Been a Fun, Learning Experience for ORSSAB Member**

In October, Ron Murphree of Knoxville handed over the reins of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) to a new chair, a position he held since October 2009. He was recognized for his service as chair of the board at the November 9 meeting. ORSSAB is a federally chartered citizens' group that provides the DOE Environmental Management Program advice and recommendations on its cleanup operations on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Ron joined the board in June 2006 and has been an active member, not only serving as chair of the board, but also chair of the Environmental Management Committee. With his departure as chair of the board he has recently taken the seat as vice chair of the board's Stewardship Committee. Ron will complete six years of board service, the most allowed by the bylaws, in June 2012.

"It's been fun, really good," he says of his experience. "Like anything else you get out of it what you put into it. If you want to study and learn about the issues and participate it's a lot, but not overwhelming. The biggest challenge is learning all the technical stuff, the jargon, the acronyms, who reports to whom, and so on. But it's fun to learn and be exposed to things a lot of people may not know about."



Former ORSSAB Chair Ron Murphree in his Denark Construction Co. office.

During his tenure the board approved 26 recommendations to DOE.

Ron is a West Tennessee native of Milan, leaving home at 17 to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served seven years in the Army as a platoon leader, company commander, and finishing his military service in the Corps of Engineers Area Office in Ft. Benning, Ga. He remained with the Corps of Engineers a few years in the Civil Service after he left the Army.

While in Georgia he received an MBA from Georgia State University and then worked at the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn. After leaving the Civil Service he worked for general contractors in Oklahoma and Texas, returning to Nashville in 1986 and coming to work for Denark Construction in Knoxville in 1996.

As chief estimator for Denark he has worked on such notable projects as Smokies Stadium near Sevierville, the Knoxville Convention Center, the Knoxville News Sentinel Building, and the Tennessee Theatre renovation.

Ron and wife Penny live in Knoxville and are big University of Tennessee football and basketball fans. They have two adult children, Amanda and Blake. Ron is active in Sertoma International and is an avid cyclist, sometimes pedaling 50 miles at a stretch.

Ron is a 12-year member of the American Society of Professional Estimators and is currently the society's southeast regional representative to the Standards Board. He has also served as the society's southeast regional governor.

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn., at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend and an open comment period is provided. For additional information, visit [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab) or call the support office at 865-241-4583 or 241-4584.

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