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ADVOCATE

ORSSAB Launches Its Stewardship Education Resource Kit

It's the year 2155. The community leaders, elected officials, and business professionals of Oak Ridge are keenly aware of the importance the city played in winning a long-ago world war they learned about in school. And they have an understanding of the role Department of Energy facilities here played in national defense and energy research. Many of the old DOE facilities are gone now, and Oak Ridge is a much different place than it was when the facilities were in use.

These leaders of the mid-22nd century have big plans for Oak Ridge that involve using much of the Oak Ridge Reservation, as it was known before

DOE was abolished in the year 2079.

But do they know what secrets the land still holds? Do they know what was left behind that could affect the health and safety of the community? Even if they know what was left, do they know where it is?

Those are the kinds of questions another group of individuals asked themselves in the last years of the 20th century and the early years of the 21st. They knew the Oak Ridge Reservation might not exist someday, and they understood the importance of making sure future generations know what went on there and what was left behind.

Such questions asked by members of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

(ORSSAB) led to the creation of the Stewardship Education Resource Kit. Developed for use by local schools to teach students the background, science, history, and cleanup of contaminated areas on the Oak Ridge Reservation, the kit defines and explains stewardship and the importance of public involvement.

Work on the kit was completed in January, and copies were distributed to individuals with the Knox and Anderson County schools systems to begin discussions on how to implement distribution in these systems and those in several other counties. Copies were also sent to DOE Headquarters and the other eight SSABs around the country.

“The importance of conveying information about the nature, extent, and location of contamination to future generations is essential to proper handling of the contaminated land currently and in the future,” says Donna Campbell, a member of the ORSSAB Stewardship Education Subcommittee that created the kit. “Each generation must be prepared to review the facts on land contamination in light of the current technology of that generation.

“But our generation,” says Campbell, “must take responsibility to ensure that a process is set in motion that provides each successive generation the proper background to interpret historical facts concerning contamination on the reservation.”

Structure of the Kit

The lesson plans are the backbone of the kit. Lecture notes allow teachers to be familiar with the material before presenting it. PowerPoint slides are provided, and each

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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

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lesson also includes support materials to keep the topic interesting, such as crossword puzzles and maps.

Two videos are included in the kit. “The White Hole” is a thought-provoking animated film about unforeseen consequences of waste disposal. “The Manhattan Project” is a History Channel documentary that tells the extraordinary story of the massive effort to build the first atomic bomb.

The kit contains a fictional case study so students can use what they learn. It’s based on actual cleanup operations at the Oak Ridge Reservation. Students break into groups representing government regulators, owners of the contaminated land, and people who own clean land adjacent to the contaminated property. Each group works up its own recommendations on long-term stewardship of the property.

An appendix of supporting materials provides additional resources, including a glossary of terms, a CD of historical photographs, a list of acronyms, a list of Internet sites related to long-term stewardship, a PowerPoint presentation explaining the need for stewardship, and several games and puzzles.

Details on the use of kit materials in the classroom are provided on a video CD produced by ORSSAB. The video features Board members Heather Cothron and Donna Campbell, and student representatives Katie Meersman, Stephanie Jernigan, and Zach Ludwig.

Evolution of the Idea

In 1997 the End Use Working Group - a special working group set up by ORSSAB - realized the importance of preserving and passing on vital information and suggested providing stewardship information through the educational system. In response to the suggestion, ORSSAB established a Stewardship Education Subcommittee to compile resource material for secondary schools.

The subcommittee’s first effort was the ORSSAB *Education Resource Guide*, a 40-page compendium of resources for local and national information related to cleanup and stewardship.

While the *Education Resource Guide* provides a wealth of information, it offered no structured course on stewardship. So the subcommittee took

on the task of developing a stewardship curriculum that teachers could use to instruct their students about the history of the Oak Ridge Reservation, environmental cleanup issues, and stewardship.

ORSSAB member Linda Murawski, who left the board last June, began writing the initial lesson plans early in 2004. “DOE has an initiative to do public education, and this kit fits nicely into that idea,” she says.

Advanced placement science classes were the initial target audiences for the kit, but its flexibility makes it useful for a number of disciplines, including social studies and history. “One of the good things about the kit is that it can be adapted to different class levels,” says Katie Meersman, an ORSSAB student representative who worked on the kit. “Parts can be used in freshman science classes, and parts can be used in the more advanced classes.

“The information in the kit is great for the students in this area, because so many of them have parents who work on the reservation,” says Meersman. “But I think many of them don’t really know exactly what it is their parents do or the result of that work. It’s really important they understand that.”

What’s Next

While the kit is now complete, the Stewardship Committee isn’t resting on its laurels. Board members Donna Campbell and Heather Cothron are currently working with school systems in the area to develop workshops to show teachers how to use the kit.

The Stewardship Committee plans to provide updates to kit materials as the need arises to make it a truly dynamic teaching tool. The committee will also start work this summer on a stewardship video that will link students to the wealth of knowledge that resides within some of the great minds who have worked on stewardship issues in the Oak Ridge community.

For information about the kit, contact the ORSSAB office at (865) 576-1590.



Audio/video engineers Sean Walsh (left) and Scott Grimsley set up to tape the Stewardship Education Resource Kit video. Heather Cothron and Katie Meersman were featured in the video CD, which provides general information about the kit.

ORSSAB Unveils Museum Exhibit

A new exhibit highlighting the Environmental Management (EM) Program and ORSSAB's role in the cleanup process was unveiled February 17 at the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

Speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony included Gerald Boyd, DOE-Oak Ridge Manager; Kerry Trammell, ORSSAB Chair; David Bradshaw, Mayor of Oak Ridge; Steve McCracken, DOE-Oak Ridge Assistant Manager for EM; and Steven Snow, Museum Director. About 50 people and several representatives of the news media attended the event.



Pictured from left are: Stephen McCracken and Gerald Boyd of DOE; ORSSAB Chair Kerry Trammell; Museum Director Steve Snow; ORSSAB Student Representative Katie Meersman, and Oak Ridge Mayor David Bradshaw.

Located on the second floor of the museum, the exhibit uses touch-screen kiosks, displays, and posters to tell the story of the Oak Ridge EM program and how ORSSAB fits into the picture. The ORSSAB Public Outreach Committee oversaw the creation of the exhibit, which is composed of elements assembled from a variety of sources and integrated into a cohesive display by museum staff.

The touch-screen kiosks, which were developed by NOLA Computer

Systems in collaboration with ORSSAB and DOE, take visitors on an interactive journey through the cleanup process at the Gunite Tanks—a highly successful remediation project at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Suspended over the exhibit is one of the remotely controlled planes that used infrared and other types of photography to survey waste disposal sites on the reservation. A thermal image camera similar to the ones used on the planes displays images of visitors on a monitor.

A key component of the cleanup program is the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility in Bear Creek Valley. A scale model of the facility is a centerpiece of the exhibit and gives visitors a clear idea of the magnitude of the cleanup effort.

Board Chair Kerry Trammell opened the ceremony by remarking on the importance of outreach to ORSSAB.

“ORSSAB has been in existence for 10 years raising public awareness of cleanup operations at the Oak Ridge Reservation,” he said. “This exhibit is another way to tell the public about the role of the board.”

DOE-Oak Ridge Manager Gerald Boyd said that the exhibit is a tremendous asset to the museum, and he thanked everyone involved in making the exhibit a reality. “It’s

extremely important to have the community fully engaged with the work being done,” he said.

DOE EM Program Manager Steve McCracken added that “The success of the work we do is determined by the community. The SSAB is hugely important to us at DOE by providing a lot of public insight.”

The opening of the exhibit is part of the ORSSAB's 10th anniversary activities this year and coincides with the release of the ORSSAB Stewardship Education Resource Kit (see story page 1). A copy of the kit was also on display at the museum during the ribbon cutting.

The American Museum of Science and Energy is located at 300 S. Tulane Ave., in Oak Ridge. Hours are Mon. –Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Ticket prices are \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students 6 to 17 years old. Children 5 and under are admitted free. For information see the museum's web site at www.amse.org.

UEFPC Proposed Plan Available for Review

The *Proposed Plan for Interim Actions for Contaminated Soils and Scrapyard in Upper East Fork Poplar Creek*, DOE/OR/01-2173&D2, is now available for public comment. The plan identifies the preferred alternative interim remediation of contaminated soil, scrap, buried waste, and subsurface structures in the Y-12 National Security Complex. Comments on the plan are due to DOE by April 28. A public meeting is set for 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge (865-241-4780). The document is available at the Information Center.

Stewardship Committee Makes Headway in Getting Contamination Data in City, County Systems



By Al Brooks, ORSSAB
Stewardship Committee Member

When DOE transfers ownership of land on which waste materials have been stored or on which they will remain following

Environmental Management Program activities, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and other land use controls require that DOE add appropriate descriptions and restrictions to the transfer deed as well as plat map information. The deed is then registered with the local Register of Deeds and becomes a permanent part of the land record, subject to discovery on title searches.

Federal and state Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations call for similar filings at the time of closure of a RCRA site as well as require notification of the local land use authority. DOE has stipulated that it will apply the RCRA requirements to CERCLA site closings as well, thus preserving the site information at the earliest reasonable date.

The End Use Working Group (EUWG) in 1998 and the ORSSAB Stewardship Working Group (SWG) in 1999 both recommended extending this preservation of contamination information by use of the county property assessor's record system as

well as the State Parcel Mapping System and the local land use authority's (City of Oak Ridge) geographic information system (GIS). These extensions provide redundancy of the data in non-DOE systems that are: (1) more assessable to the public, developers, land purchasers, and land use planners; (2) intended for the long-term preservation of land information; and (3) independent of the continued presence of or funding by DOE.

In January 2004 the ORSSAB Stewardship Committee undertook a feasibility study of the 1998/99 EUWG and SWG recommendations. Previously filed plat information for approximately 10 previously contaminated sites in the vicinity of Y-12 was available for the test.

The Anderson County Register of Deeds typed all appropriate DOE filings as "Environmental Notations." The Anderson County Property Assessor placed the plat information in a routine manner into the Property Assessor's GIS database as a parcel and sent it to the City of Oak Ridge's GIS system and to the state Parcel Mapping System at the next routine update.

The plats appeared as parcels in the Oak Ridge GIS system, with minimal descriptive information. The augmentation of the parcel information through the local zoning authority is being pursued with the intent of providing a warning concerning the condition of the land. No evidence has been found to indicate that the required notice is being given to the local land use authority (Oak Ridge). This warning should trigger this action, i.e., description augmentation.

The same testing in Roane County has just become possible with the routine transfer of information from Roane County to the City of Oak Ridge and will be pursued as soon as the Anderson County investigation is complete.

In as much as the tests have involved the existing county and city systems without any significant changes to their schedules or procedures (other than the capture of a few additional plats by the Property Assessor), the testing has been quite successful. The minor current deficiency in the plat (parcel) description can be remedied by placing the appropriate land use (zoning) information into existing fields, which are now vacant.

The appropriate required DOE notice to the land control authority (City of Oak Ridge) needs to be established as a routine DOE procedure at the time of site closure but involves only additional copies of the "environmental notice."

An informational waste subcategory to the current FAR zoning category (an arbitrary zoning category for the federally owned land in Oak Ridge) would be a useful but not absolutely necessary zoning adjunct. Given the ease of these actions, the full success of these extensions is foreseeable if DOE can muster the administrative will to accomplish them.

A more complete description of the system is contained in the *Oak Ridge Reservation Stakeholder Report on Stewardship, Vol. II* (1999). The report is available on the ORSSAB web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/pubs.htm.

October Set for Transition of Responsibility for Newly Generated Waste at Y-12

When DOE unveiled its Accelerated Cleanup Program in 2001, a key concept for speeding up cleanup was to focus all Environmental Management (EM) Program activities so that they were more directly related to cleanup. Over time the program had grown to include many associated but not necessarily “core” activities, such as technology development and responsibility for newly generated waste (NGW).

Here in Oak Ridge, DOE has been working steadily since Accelerated Cleanup was introduced toward transitioning responsibility for NGW at the Y-12 National Security Complex and at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) back to the waste generators.

The ORSSAB received an update at its February meeting on the progress of NGW transfer from Harvey Rice, NGW Project Manager for DOE.

According to Rice, studies on transitioning NGW began even before the advent of Accelerated Cleanup. In 1995 EM began a “re-engineering study” to evaluate EM’s waste management responsibilities. In 1996 a report was issued recommending transferring responsibility for waste management to the waste generators.

It wasn’t until Accelerated Cleanup, though, that the process gained momentum. In fiscal year 2004, EM and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) finally agreed to transfer NGW responsibility to Y-12 in fiscal year 2006. The transfer date is set for October 10, 2005.

Rice said NGW activities include characterization, packaging, and all the activities EM currently handles at Y-12 for the NNSA. The transfer at Y-12

will not include the landfills, the EM Waste Management Facility, or the closed burial grounds.

Rice said while steady progress is being made at Y-12, a number of issues still need resolution at ORNL. The transition scope at ORNL includes the Hazardous Wastes Operations Group storage facilities, NGW disposition activities, and perhaps liquid/gaseous treatment. It is uncertain if liquid/gaseous treatment is something ORNL needs or if it would transfer.

Rice said ORNL has been doing a number of things in preparation to handle NGW, but no target date for transfer has been set. He said ORNL has revised its waste certification

program to ensure all activities involving shipment and disposal are addressed. ORNL has received certification to dispose of wastes at the Nevada Test Site and continues with the Hazardous Waste Pilot with UT-Battelle. UT-Battelle will directly manage certification, shipment, and disposal of some solid low-level waste.

Rice said discussions continue on the general strategy for transition of NGW from EM to the Office of Science at ORNL. He said the transition will probably be two-tiered, with solid waste operations transferring first and the liquid/gaseous treatment transferring later, if those systems are still required by ORNL.



Join Us for Our March Public Meetings

Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m.

DOE Information Center

475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge

David Adler of the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program will discuss the various types of wastes on the Oak Ridge Reservation and planned disposition pathways.

Committee Meetings

- Stewardship Tues., Mar. 15, 5:30 p.m. **Land use control implementation plans**
- Environmental Management Wed., Mar. 16, 5:30 p.m. **UEFPC Proposed Plan**
- Public Outreach Tues., Mar. 22, 5:30 p.m. **General business**
- Board Finance Thurs., Mar. 24, 5 p.m. **General business**
- Executive Thurs., Mar. 24, 5:30 p.m. **General business**

All meetings will be held at the DOE Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, unless otherwise noted. Please call 576-1590 to confirm committee meetings, as they are subject to change.

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board is an independent, volunteer group of citizens dedicated to providing recommendations and advice to the Department of Energy’s Environmental Management Program. For more information, contact our office at (865) 576-1590 or see our Web site at www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab. The board can document participation in committee activities, tasks, and projects, which may be accepted by some organizations, associations, or societies as professional development.

Reservation News

Agreement Near on K-25 Historical Preservation

Several agencies are close to agreeing on an historical preservation plan for an important landmark at the former K-25 site, now known as the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).

DOE-Oak Ridge Operations (DOE-ORO), the Tennessee Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have issued a draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) regarding how the significance of Building K-25 can be recorded for future visitors.

DOE recognizes that Building K-25 played an important role in the Manhattan Project and that its place in history should be preserved. Because of extensive contamination and poor condition, most of the building cannot be saved, but plans have been formulated to develop the site that it occupies for historical interpretation.

The draft MOA provides details of the plan on which federal, state, and local officials agree. The MOA was issued to receive comment from a number of consulting parties that have an interest in the project, including ORSSAB.

Development of the interpretive area would be in three phases.

The short-term Phase I would include stabilization of the north end of the building. Equipment would be removed and, if necessary, a new roof would be installed. DOE would also remove and retain the so-called “Roosevelt Cell.” This was some of the equipment selected to help explain to President Franklin Roosevelt the processes taking place in the facility. (Roosevelt never made the trip to Oak Ridge, however.)

Long-term Phase II would charge DOE-ORO with developing a plan to

commemorate the Manhattan Project “signature” facilities: the K-25 Building, the graphite reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Y-12 Beta 3 calutron “racetrack.”

The third phase of the project would be deciding if the site should be managed by the National Park Service or if DOE would transfer the property ownership to some other entity, such as a private foundation.

After Building K-25 is demolished, the central courtyard between the long “legs” of the old building would be filled and graded, leaving a 10-foot high area. The walls would be used to display historical information, such as large photographs, murals, and plaques.

The footprint of K-25 would be preserved by creating a buffer zone around the land it occupied. Visitors standing on the raised area would be able to get a sense of the enormous size of the old building.

Construction Set for May on New EMWMF Haul Road

Construction of the new haul road to transport waste from ETTP to the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) is set to begin in early May. The road is expected to be ready for use by fall.

The road will use some existing roadway on the Oak Ridge Reservation but will include 4.8 miles of new gravel road and two bridges.

The road will begin at the north side of ETTP at Portal 5 and run east parallel to Blair Road. It will cross Highway 58 via a newly constructed bridge just west of the Blair Road intersection. It then will use the existing Flannigan Loop to cross Pine

Ridge and turn east running along the north side of West Bear Creek Road.

At about 1500 feet east of Flannigan Loop the route will leave West Bear Creek Road and go northeast to the existing power line right of way and run along the right of way. It will cross Highway 95 via the second new bridge and follow the power line right of way to the Closure and Post-Closure Activities haul road to EMWMF.

May 31 is the start date for construction of the new gravel road running parallel with West Bear Creek Road and eventually linking with the existing Closure and Post-Closure Activities haul road.

Construction of the Haul Road Was Proposed in Response to Incidents

When EMWMF was built it was assumed that waste transport would be over existing public and restricted access roadways running between the waste management facility and the three main Oak Ridge Reservation operations of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Y-12 National Security Complex, and ETTP. But DOE’s experience transporting waste from ETTP to the EMWMF, most notably the strontium spill on Highway 95 in May 2004, led it to conclude a safer and more cost-effective way was needed to transport the waste.

Justification for building the road included reduced risks of accidents on public roadways, shortened turnaround time, improved control and mitigation of any contaminated incidents, and reduced wear on public roads.

While ORSSAB agreed in principle with the construction of the haul road, the Board felt the project should be evaluated more thoroughly. In December the Board made a recommendation for further study

Reservation News

based on three points:

- Economic justification for the project had changed after initial plans because Department of Transportation rules apply to round-trip monitoring, which would significantly reduce savings.
- Potential impact to environmental and cultural resources are sufficient to warrant more study.
- It was not clear that all route options had been adequately studied. Whatever route used must have a more friendly restoration to the original state than was proposed.

In January, DOE responded to the Board's concerns. It said the justification for the project is not based on economic benefits, but would present some opportunities in the form of cost and risk avoidance.

Regarding impacts to environmental and cultural resources, DOE said every effort had been made to identify and mitigate such resources. Concerning restoration of the land to its original state when shipments end in 2008, DOE reiterated its plan to allow newly constructed road segments to revert to natural conditions. The bridges will be removed, and approaches to the bridges will be graded.

DOE Plans to Keep TSCA Incinerator a Little Longer

The Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator (TSCAI) is getting a new lease on life.

At the January ORSSAB meeting, Steve McCracken, DOE's Assistant Manager for EM, said plans are in the works to extend the life of the incinerator past its original closure date in 2006 and demolition in 2008.

"If you ever asked me what my plans were for the TSCAI, I've always said, 'until somebody told me different, I'm

going to shut it down in 2006 and tear it down in 2008.' I'm not saying that anymore," he said.

"I have received instructions from the people I work for in Washington [DOE Headquarters] that they believe we need to extend the life of the incinerator for two or three years in order to work off the all the wastes we have on hand, so we are proceeding down a path to do that."

McCracken said a new contract would be awarded that would require more attention to long-term maintenance of the facility. He said while the incinerator is operating as expected, it is not being maintained with the intent to operate past 2006, nor does the current contractor, Bechtel Jacobs Co., have any incentive to do so.

McCracken said the new contract would call for operating the facility as it has been but to maintain it for continuing operation.

Because the state had previously voiced concerns about turning the incinerator over to a private company, McCracken said DOE would continue to be the owner of the incinerator.

John Owsley, the Board's ex officio from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, said the state simply wants the incinerator to be operated within existing permits. He said if it was ever transferred to a private owner, the facility would have to be closed and then reopened as a new facility with proper permits.

A TSCAI air permit was issued by the state on January 25. The permit provides operating limits for the incinerator through January 26, 2006. It also provides for special conditions during the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT)

comprehensive performance test in mid-March.

The results of the test will demonstrate compliance with requirements of the MACT regulations and will be used to update the Title V air permit application. A Title V air permit will eventually replace the current air permit.

Corrective Action Plans Released on Two Incidents

Two Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) have been issued for incidents that happened within just a few days of each other last spring.

On May 8 a sodium fire occurred at East Tennessee Technology Park. Six days later a truck hauling waste to EMWMF leaked strontium along a portion of Highway 95.

DOE-ORO has issued its CAP for the sodium fire. The CAP outlines measures that will be implemented to prevent any similar accidents. The steps are primarily concerned with working closer with the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and its subleasees to ensure they are working safely and responsibly. CROET leases property at ETTP and subleases it to private companies.

Bechtel Jacobs Co. (BJC), the prime contractor for cleanup operations on the Oak Ridge Reservation, issued its CAP in response to the strontium spill.

The CAP describes steps taken by BJC, its subcontractor Safety and Ecology, Corp., and DOE-ORO, to address the causes of the accident so no further incidents of this nature occur.

Copies of the CAPs are available the DOE Information Center, 457 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge.

ORSSAB Welcomes Three New Members

Steve Dixon is the owner of Spectra Environmental Group, which provides environmental services to more than 1,000 small businesses in the region. He has worked as the director of management for the Metro Knoxville Airport Authority and as the finance director for the Knoxville Community Development Corp. Steve is a Louisville resident and a member of the Blount County Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of Ducks Unlimited and enjoys boating and working with Scouts and youth soccer.

James Miller is a manager with BNFL in Oak Ridge. He is a certified National Registry Radiation Protection Technologist and has over 16 years

managerial experience working with both commercial and governmental decontamination and decommissioning projects. He also has served as the License User Representative for several local facilities operating under a Radioactive Material License governed

by the State of Tennessee. James is a Knoxville resident and an active member at Grace Baptist Church.

Sandy Reagan works in Knoxville and is vice president of Memphis-based EnSafe, Inc. A resident of Maryville, she has been involved in the environmental field since 1977 and has extensive project management experience in environmental compliance. She has also coordinated and negotiated all types of environmental compliance issues for both private sector and governmental organizations. Sandy holds a state of Tennessee teaching certification for biology, chemistry, physics, and general science, and she is an associate real estate broker.



New ORSSAB members (left to right) Steve Dixon, Sandy Reagan, and James Miller at the December 2004 board meeting.

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