



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved November 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at Chuy's Restaurant meeting room, 9235 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn., beginning at 6 p.m.

Members Present

Leon Baker

Alfreda Cook, Vice Chair

David Hemelright,
Secretary

Donald Mei

Belinda Price, Chair

Mary Smalling
Ed Trujillo

Dennis Wilson

Members Absent

Richard Burroughs

Martha Deaderick

Mike Ford¹

Lisa Hagy

Bob Hatcher

Howard Holmes¹

Jennifer Kasten¹

Greg Paulus

Coralie Staley¹

Scott Stout¹

Wanfang Zhou

¹Second consecutive absence.

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Federal Coordinator Present

Susan Cange, Manager for Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Environmental Management (EM) and ORSSAB Deputy Designated Federal Officer

Kristof Czartoryski, liaison, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Federal Coordinator

Others Present

Jason Armstrong, DOE

Spencer Gross, ORSSAB Support Office

Alana Joldersma, Student Representative

Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office

No members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Cange – Ms. Cange said that in January there will be several open seats on the board. There are some candidates, but more are needed. She encouraged board members to talk to people they know who might be interested in joining the board.

She encouraged members to consider attending off-site conferences. There are several requests to attend the Waste Management Symposium in March 2016 and there are other conferences available in 2016.

Preparations to demolish the K-27 Building at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) are on schedule and demolition is expected to begin in January. A celebration is planned when K-27 demolition is complete marking the completion of the demolition of all five gaseous diffusion buildings at ETTP.

Ms. Cange said work will be done to reduce risk at other excess facilities at ETTP as funding becomes available. The government is operating under a continuing resolution based on FY 2015 funding. Ms. Cange said the continuing resolution expires on December 11 and the hope is an appropriation bill will be in place and funding for the excess facilities will be available.

Mr. Hemelright asked if a date has been set for completion of demolition of K-27. Ms. Cange did not have a definite date, but the goal is to have it finished by the end of calendar year 2016. She said progress will depend on a number of factors such as weather.

Ms. Cange said the virtual museum for historic preservation at ETTP was unveiled earlier in the day. The link to the virtual museum was sent to board members earlier in the day (www.k-25virtualmuseum.org).

Launching of the virtual museum was part of the events of the day where the Secretaries of Energy and the Interior signed a memorandum of agreement establishing the Manhattan Project National Park, which includes Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, N.M., and Hanford, Wash. There will be a celebration of the establishment of the park at 2 p.m. at Oak Ridge High School on Thursday, November 12 and then a dedication ceremony at 4 p.m. at Jackson Square in Oak Ridge.

Mr. Czartoryski – Related to Mr. Armstrong's presentation Mr. Czartoryski said he was impressed with the safety culture in the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program and understands all the hard work involved in making projects safe.

Public Comment

None.

Presentation

Mr. Armstrong is the Associate Director of the Operations Management Division for the Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management. His presentation was on ensuring safe operations of work being done on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR).

He began by talking about the major activities underway on the ORR.

The Transuranic Waste Processing Center processes and packages transuranic waste for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. Its key hazards are radiological, chemical, electrical, and industrial. He said it's essential that materials are packaged properly and safely for transportation and disposal.

At ETTP the primary work is decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition of old buildings. Four of the five gaseous diffusion buildings have been demolished. The key hazards are criticality, chemical, industrial, and radiological. A lot of heavy equipment is used to take down buildings, which causes large pieces of building materials to fall.

Uranium-233 disposition is a project at Oak Ridge National Lab (ORNL) that involves criticality, radiological, chemical, and industrial hazards. It, too, requires safe, compliant packaging and transportation. Mr. Armstrong said things must be done correctly or it affects operations in Oak Ridge.

Surveillance and maintenance and waste disposition activities are conducted at ORNL and Y-12 National Security Complex. Those operations also include criticality, radiological, chemical, and industrial hazards. Mr. Armstrong said both sites have unused buildings that require monitoring and a certain amount of maintenance.

Waste management operations include transportation and disposition of waste from around the ORR, including classified and non-classified waste. Hazards are radiological, industrial, and security concerns.

The last major operation is liquid and gaseous waste. Maintenance of operations is a priority where the hazards are radiological, chemical, electrical, and industrial.

Mr. Armstrong said these operations have been and are being done safely. He said safety is embraced by DOE and its prime cleanup contractor UCOR. Everyone must be actively engaged in these projects to make sure things are done safe and compliant.

He said all involved have shared values of accountability, integrity, impact, and innovation.

Mr. Armstrong explained the operations management division. It consists of three branches:

- Facility Oversight Branch
- Safety, Security, and Waste Management Branch
- Engineering Branch.

The Facility Oversight Branch has 12 facility representatives who act as management's eyes and ears in the field monitoring what the contractor is doing. These individuals undergo about 18 months of training and testing. They are responsible for occurrence reporting and contractor performance monitoring.

The Safety, Security, and Waste Management Branch consists of 10 subject matter experts/program managers. They are certified safety professionals and engineers. They are responsible for overseeing contractor implementation of key safety management programs.

The Engineering Branch has 11 engineers and scientists who work on safety basis documents. They use their engineering expertise in nuclear, chemical, structural, environmental, and radiological areas and monitor conduct of operations and work planning and control.

All involved interface with project management and contract management teams through integrated project teams in bi-weekly facility operations conference meetings and monthly project review conferences. Each integrated project team has a project manager and the team works to understand what works and what doesn't.

Mr. Armstrong said the goal is to work toward perfection, understanding that perfection isn't always possible, to achieve excellence. He said "we hold each other to that standard. We want a lot of communication and feedback." He said partnerships are critical for safe operations.

After Mr. Armstrong's presentation a number of questions were asked. Following are abridged questions and answers.

Mr. Hemelright – Do you share lessons learned? Mr. Armstrong – Yes, each contractor has a lessons learned program. We did a lessons learned assessment early on. Oak Ridge was the first to do that. When an event happens the facility rep will ask if a lesson learned was available that wasn't followed.

Mr. Trujillo – Does DOE have a data bank that a project was implemented and is now at a certain point? Mr. Armstrong – Every quarter a trend analysis is done to determine which program is improving and which isn't. Ms. Cange – We have performance metrics that track lost time and performance objectives. It's part of the Integrated Safety Management System. We get performance objectives from the contractor. Our objective is to have zero accidents. We know that's not always feasible, but we do what we can to lessen severity when there is an accident.

Ms. Price – Do you look at near misses? Mr. Armstrong – Yes, they are recorded. We had to define what a near miss is. A near miss is a close call where no barrier is in place. We have operational calls every Tuesday and Thursday where managers provide briefings on projects that include any near misses.

Ms. Cook – Are there any penalties or incentives? Mr. Armstrong – On the contractor side there is the performance evaluation management plan. They earn fees based on what metrics are met. Ms. Cange – Providing an award fee is the strongest incentive. They recognize that a reward for good performance is a possibility for additional work. Assessments are done once a year that can be used for contract proposals.

Mr. Wilson – What about contractor systems in place to meet DOE standards? Mr. Armstrong – Those systems have to be approved by DOE. DOE looks at efficiencies. The facility reps have a list of things to watch for, for instance things that might be related to the season (structures behaving differently in hot or cold temperatures).

Mr. Trujillo – As time passes and a facility deteriorates do you forecast things differently? Mr. Armstrong – We have a matrix for our work; a schedule of how things should be planned. But there is only so much money available. So the matrix is based on risk and funding. Ms. Cange – One of the positive outcomes of the closure of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant was all sites looked at what they do help prevent problems. In Oak Ridge we looked to see if deferred maintenance was leading to problems. We decided to do preventive maintenance to reduce risk. Our FY 2017 budget request includes funding for maintenance and repairs of some systems. However, that might lead to a loss of funding for demolition.

Ms. Cange concluded the session by saying she wanted Mr. Armstrong to talk to the board about a safe work environment because his program is critical to the success of the environmental cleanup in Oak Ridge. She said operational oversight activities are what make the various cleanup projects successful.

Committee Reports

None.

Announcements and Other Board Business

ORSSAB's next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Lacking a quorum no motions were made.

Federal Coordinator Report

No report.

Motions

None.

Action items

1. Lacking a quorum to vote on the draft recommendation on a Proposed Plan for Soils in Zone 1 at ETTP, Ms. Cook asked if there would be D4 version of the proposed plan coming out before the board meets again in January. Ms. Noe said she would check to see if a D4 is planned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the November 10, 2015, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Dave Hemelright, Secretary



Belinda Price, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
BP/rsg

January 14, 2016