



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved October 11, 2017, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2017, at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, beginning at 6 p.m. A video of the meeting was made and may be viewed by contacting ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or (865) 241-4584. The presentation portion of the video is available on the board's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Leon Baker
Kathryn Bales
Christopher Beatty
David Branch
Richard Burroughs
Martha Deaderick
Eddie Holden
Michelle Lohmann

Belinda Price, Vice Chair

Leon Shields
Bonnie Shoemaker
Fred Swindler
John Tapp
Ed Trujillo
Rudy Weigel
Dennis Wilson, Chair

Members Absent

Rosario Gonzalez¹
Deni Sobek
Venita Thomas
Tara Walker¹
Phil Yager

¹Second consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Dave Adler, Acting deputy manager and ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)
Neema Atashi, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), via telephone
Kristof Czartryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

Others Present

Steve Cooke, DOE
Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office
Cameron Niemeyer, Hardin Valley Academy
Pete Osborne, ORSSAB Support Office

Eighteen members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Mr. Adler – Mr. Adler introduced the board’s new members: David Branch, Michelle Lohmann, Leon Shields, John Tapp, and Bonnie Shoemaker were in attendance. Tara Walker was unable to attend.

He went on to update the board on EM activities at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). There have been a couple of significant accomplishments, he said. On October 10, 2017, the Secretary of Energy transmitted the land transfer package for Duct Island (a particular land parcel of ETTP) to congress. Assuming everything goes well in congressional review, the land will be transferred to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) for potential industrial development upon approval. A second large tract, known as the K-31/K-33 site, was approved and transferred to CROET. The sites are about 200 acres each, he noted, and both could be attractive to large business tenants.

Mr. Czartoryski – No comments.

Mr. Atashi – Mr. Atashi attended by phone in place of EPA Liaison Connie Jones. He is new members of the EPA Oak Ridge team and is working to assist with the EPA’s remedial action activities at ETTP.

Public Comment

Luther Gibson – Mr. Gibson, a former ORSSAB board chair, recounted hearing the regularly tested warning sirens in Oak Ridge and wondered when or if there might not need to be regular public warning siren testing for ETTP once it is fully cleaned up. He also asked about railcars and wondered if it would be possible to restart the ‘Excursion Train,’ which used to travel by the site.

Lloyd Stokes – Mr. Stokes spoke for several members of the Oak Ridge Heritage and Preservation Association in attendance. He noted there were many new faces at the meeting and wondered how many of the new people are really familiar with all the preservation activity that has gone on in recent years. He referenced the Memorandum of agreement (MOA) to preserve historic contributions of K-25, and reminded attendees that the MOA required regular progress reports. He thinks the new participants should get a copy of this MOA so they could “get up to speed” on preservation efforts as well as future plans.

He would like an update on K-25 preservation because there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed. He referred to a recent Oak Ridge City Council meeting, which mentioned tax abatement for CROET as an example. He likewise noted work that needs to be done, including walking trails and signage at the ETTP site. In general, he said, he wants better communication from DOE and its partners to the citizens of Oak Ridge and would like them to also put more effort into generating publicity for the site.

Chuck Hope – Mr. Hope, a member of the Oak Ridge City Council clarified that the resolution Mr. Stokes referenced was for the Oak Ridge Industrial Development Board to work with CROET on land transfer. It creates a Payment In Lieu of Tax lease between CROET and the Industrial Development Board, he said.

Presentation

Mr. Adler gave a presentation on DOE’s “Vision 2020: Planning for the Future of ETTP Including Reuse, Historic Preservation and Stewardship.” The main points of his presentation are in Attachment 1.

Mr. Adler gave a quick summary of projects for the vision – The buildings gone, soil removed, and land transferred to private ownership.

The ultimate goal, he said, is for the empty land to be filled with manufacturing facilities that generate jobs, Manhattan Project Historic Park facilities, and conservation/recreation areas. The work that remains to be done at ETTP is to tear down a number of buildings, including the centrifuge test facilities. A significant amount of soil removal is ongoing. Groundwater is going to be a challenge, he acknowledged. Technical constraints limit the groundwater cleaning that can be performed. DOE is working with the city of Oak Ridge to get infrastructure transferred over to the city including water, wastewater and electrical as well as roads.

Mr. Adler went over several maps of the site that are included in Attachment 1: A schematic of the site that showed what buildings have been demolished, what buildings are remaining and what portions have been transferred or leased; a topographical map of ETTP that allowed him to discuss contaminated soil on the site that needs to be cleared as well as areas that have already been cleaned; and an aerial schematic that was used to discuss groundwater challenges on the site.

He emphasized that the environmental issues are a mixture of the materials left from decades of manufacturing. While there are some contamination plumes at the edges of the property, usually in conjunction with material burial grounds, he said, most of the contaminated areas are centered around the manufacturing areas.

Mr. Adler gave an overview of the land that has been transferred and discussed some of the ways it is, or could be, used. He said progress has been made toward putting an airport on the site, although it is still in the process of getting approval at the federal level. He said it would be a great draw for some of the targeted industries for the site like producers of certain medical products or time-sensitive shipping operators, among others.

Mr. Adler went into more detail on Duct Island and the K-31/33 parcels. Duct Island is technically in Roane County and is a large site well suited to a major manufacturing facility, he said. There is barge access, a rail transfer yard and good access to the interstate – all positives. However, it's a former DOE facility and there may be some stigma issues with the past uranium activities. It's a brownfield site with some building foundations that would have to be worked around. He felt these challenges could be overcome.

He returned to the topic of transferring key infrastructure. One example is the transfer of the fire station, which was transferred to the city of Oak Ridge several years ago, he said. Having the fire station there is another draw for manufacturing companies because it offers additional safety assurances.

The presentation then turned to historic preservation. Artist's renderings (Attachment 1) were shown to give an example of what the site will be in the future, including a small museum adjacent to the fire station. The plan also includes developing a large facility to showcase replica equipment like that used to enrich uranium at K-25. Other areas of the site will be used for conservation and recreation. There will be trails and a greenway, among other outdoor attractions.

Mr. Adler said he thought Mr. Stokes' idea to share the MOA was a good one and would like to give the board a summary of the MOA at a later date.

He mentioned there will be an upcoming event to promote the progress of the history center at ETTP. It's currently scheduled for 2-4 p.m. on Oct. 19. He invited the public and board to attend.

After the presentation board members asked the following questions.

Ms. Shoemaker asked if the K-15 facility's utilities have been transferred to the city. Mr. Adler said the sanitation facility is being demolished. She also asked about the sewer plant. Mr. Adler said that is also being decommissioned.

Mr. Trujillo asked about groundwater issues persisting. Mr. Adler said even if DOE comes up with ways to fully restore groundwater, they will take time to implement. So when property is transferred, the land deeds include prohibitions on groundwater use. DOE can definitely prevent public health issues, but there is doubt about the ability to restore the water resource to its original quality, he added. Mr. Trujillo said groundwater had been discussed at several previous board meetings and it was obviously of continued importance. Mr. Adler said DOE has planned for future needs at the site. It would be signing Records of Decision with its state and federal partners related to groundwater cleanup and management and that there will be ongoing stewardship at a minimum to protect the public and manage any issues.

Mr. Trujillo then asked about the timeline for the airport. Mr. Adler said the master plan for the airport is with the FAA for review. He suggested the FAA could rule on those plans over the next year or so. If that were to be approved, the airport could be in preliminary site preparation the following year. Lastly Mr. Trujillo asked about the history center and if there would be integration with the current museum, which is being relocated. Mr. Adler said yes, the general thinking is to use an "open spoke" concept for historical attractions with the relocated museum being the hub. DOE is working closely with the national park service on this concept, he said. DOE will retain ownership of facilities at ETTP, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Y-12. The American Museum of Science and Energy will be relocated in the new downtown area. The hub is being designed there, and the park service will have a separate location — The plan is for tourists to come into town, see local attractions then be encouraged to continue to other areas.

Mr. Tapp asked about transferring electric and other utilities at ETTP. Mr. Adler said DOE has to determine what water lines and other services meet current building codes and that the city actually wants to use. Those discussions are underway now, he said. Mr. Tapp asked if DOE will replace old lines. Mr. Adler said there have been instances where DOE has saved money by replacing some lines, rather than repairing the existing infrastructure, but DOE has to be careful because its core mission is to clean up, not build infrastructure or pursue economic development.

Mr. Tapp asked about financing for the proposed new airport. Mr. Adler said it would probably be a combination of state and federal financing.

Ms. Price asked about some of the groundwater plumes and asked about primary contaminants in the plumes. Mr. Adler said generally the issue is solvents – including degreasing solvents and other chemicals in some fuels. There may be some metals, he said, but it's primarily industrial solvents. He said this is very similar to many other former industrial facilities. Ms. Price reminded everyone that there would be a board presentation on groundwater in June 2018 and invited members of the audience to attend.

Ms. Price asked if the K-25 Virtual Museum would be maintained indefinitely. Mr. Cooke said there is interest in doing updates to the website periodically. DOE is working on that schedule currently and the website will remain even after the physical museums are available.

Mr. Tapp asked about groundwater and the contaminants' effect on fish and wildlife and the related water quality standards compared to drinking water standards. Mr. Adler said having all of the affected water meet drinking water standards is not realistic. He said the typical experience is contaminants can be seen close to the site, but are heavily diluted once they gain some distance from the source. He said

in all but a couple of cases here, the groundwater does not contain contaminants in percentages that are dangerous to wildlife. While dilution as a method of cleaning the water is not ideal, it is a solution.

Ms. Shoemaker asked for more information about water quality criteria that are higher than drinking water standards. Mr. Adler said yes, that is the case particularly with animals that may be consumed by humans, because of the potential for contaminants to build up inside an animal over time. He emphasized that DOE is monitoring the water extensively through sampling wells and other methods.

Mr. Trujillo asked about the work schedule in the DOE Groundwater Strategy Document compared to the completion schedule of Vision 2020. Mr. Adler said part of the vision is by 2020 DOE would be well on the way to making decisions on what to do with the groundwater. He said DOE is working with TDEC on some of these groundwater issues. He emphasized the difficulty of groundwater decisions due to the parties involved and the uncertainty.

Members of the public asked the following questions

Mr. Stokes asked what radioactive and chemical characterization is done on the facilities that are turned over to CROET and others by DOE. He also asked specifically how portions of the Clinch Riverfront would be characterized before being turned over. Mr. Adler said before DOE can transfer facilities it has to demonstrate that the environmental conditions are compatible with the intended reuse. The conditions pass scrutiny through an independent review group as well as reviews by the state of Tennessee and EPA. The goal is to clean up ETTP such that there are no restrictions on land use to a depth of 10 feet, he said. For soils there is a very thorough protocol in place to keep DOE from transferring restricted property. If there are use issues, those restrictions are part of the deed to the property, he said. For sewer and water transfer to the city, in addition to the state and federal organizations, the city also has its own review process and requirements. Regarding White Oak Lake and nearby portions of the river, Mr. Adler clarified the history of the area and releases of contaminants from DOE facilities into the Clinch River. He said DOE signed a Record of Decision that said it was not desirable to dig up the contaminated soils in the area. He said there is an agreement between DOE, the state and TVA that scrutinizes any ground disturbance in that area, such as for the building of boat docks or bridges, that has worked very successfully.

Bob Hatcher asked about technitium-99 (Tc-99) and hexavalent chromium at ETTP. Mr. Adler said there are some areas where the Tc-99, a radioactive isotope, exists in the soil and in some of the water. DOE has engaged with the city to deal with this material and dispose of it at appropriate facilities. Mr. Czartoryski clarified that the Tc-99 flowed along sewer lines to the sewer plant, not in drinking water to the water plant.

Ken Mayes asked about land transfer and historic preservation for the area at ETTP where there is a church. Mr. Adler said it would probably be retained by DOE because so many people care about that property. He noted the park service wants to help interpret things, but does not actually want to own property, which means EM has to find another path forward for some site ownership. Mr. Adler said DOE already has agreements to preserve the church area. He noted that if the airport was built, it would actually prohibit development near the church as the area would be part of the safety boundary. Mr. Adler said other than the documents already developed, he is unaware of additional requirements for preserving that area. However, he said, there is a provision that if, as land is developed, something of potential cultural significance is encountered, development must stop while any discoveries are analyzed. Otherwise, no preservation is planned. Mr. Mayes asked how the long-term operations of the K-25 site including any updates to the museum will be handled. Mr. Adler said that was a hard question. There is a plan, which for now says it will remain EM's obligation. DOE is working out internally what organization within DOE would shoulder the appropriations requirement for those stewardship activities. For example, DOE has a Legacy Management office, and EM is in discussions with them to perhaps take over the facilities. Mr. Mayes said to remember that DOE does have a

museum in town as well as a satellite. Mr. Adler said the park and associated preservation activity is all about partnerships. DOE is working with affected cities, the federal government and interested nonprofits and other organizations.

Mr. Weigel asked about bridges over certain routes once DOE's temporary haul road is no longer needed. Mr. Adler said the current regulatory obligation is to use the roads to clean up, then take everything down and let the area revert to nature. However, he said there is the potential that some other private entity might want to buy and use the haul road, which could be accommodated.

Mr. Tapp asked if the haul roads could be trails. Mr. Adler said that is one option that has been discussed. The discussion will be ongoing for the next couple years, he added.

Mr. Trujillo asked if the board could have CROET in as a speaker to talk about ETPP.

Committee Reports

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Swindler gave a brief overview of the discussion of EM Outreach Efforts. There were a number of questions at the meeting, he said. A discussion about a recommendation on communication topics was initiated. Board members are interested in getting the message about cleanup activities out. Much like this meeting, he said, the committee also talked a lot about groundwater. Mr. Swindler noted Melyssa Noe's explanation of DOE's priority on offsite plume migration.

Mr. Swindler said the committee's June topic is groundwater, however leading up to that he expect there to be more discussion. Groundwater continues to be a topic of increased interest. He reported there was good participation on issue signup and management and gave the results of officer elections: himself as the chair and Mr. Tapp as vice chair. He noted staff had sent out the Groundwater Document as requested at the previous EM & Stewardship meeting.

Executive – Mr. Wilson said that the same groundwater issues had surfaced at the executive committee meeting as well as additional inquiry into what documents are available to review. He expects a lot of interest in the June meeting. Mr. Wilson reminded the board that he and Mr. Burroughs are going to the Hanford chair's meeting next week. He reminded members not going to the chairs meeting that the Oct. 19 event is something they should attend.

Open Discussion

Mr. Czartoryski said there was a correction to the travel opportunities provided in the meeting packet.

Announcements and Other Board Business

ORSSAB's next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 8 at the DOE Information Center. The topic will be An Overview of the EM Complex.

The minutes of the September 13 meeting were approved.

Motions

10/11/2017.1

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Weigel moved to approve and Ms. Lohmann seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

10/11/2017.2

Mr. Wilson asked to approve the September minutes. Mr. Baker moved to approve and Ms. Lohmann seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Alternate DDFO Report

No comment.

Action Items

Mr. Cooke will provide staff with a copy of the MOA for K-25 for distribution to members.

Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Attachments (1) to these minutes are available upon request from the ORSSAB support office.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the October 11, 2017, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Richard Burroughs, Secretary



Dennis Wilson, Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
DW/smk

11/8/17