



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Approved October 10, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at the DOE Information Center, 1 Science.gov Way, Oak Ridge, TN, beginning at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached to these minutes. A video of the meeting was made and is available on the board's YouTube site at www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos.

Members Present

Terry Allen

Leon Baker

Richard Burroughs, Secretary

Bill Clark

Sarah Eastburn

Eddie Holden

Shell Lohmann, Vice Chair

Marite Perez

Belinda Price

Leon Shields

Fred Swindler

John Tapp

Ed Trujillo

Rudy Weigel

Members Absent

David Branch

Martha Deaderick¹

Brooke Pitchers

Bonnie Shoemaker

Dennis Wilson, Chair

¹Second consecutive absence

Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present

Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM)

Mike Higgins, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Others Present

Ben Williams, DOE

Roger Petrie, UCOR

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office

Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office

Jasleen Narula, Hardin Valley Academy student representative

Eight members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Noe – Presented awards to outgoing members Christopher Beatty and Venita Thomas.

Ms. Noe reminded attendees that the next EMDF public meeting would be on Oct. 18 at the Y-12 New Hope Facility. She also mentioned that DOE is starting member recruitment for the board. She went on to formally introduce the FY19 new members: Terry Allen, Bill Clark, Sarah Eastburn, Brooke Pitchers and Marite Perez.

Ms. Jones – No comments.

Mr. Higgins – He noted that there is a public availability session at the TDEC office on Oct. 11 on EMDF. It was requested by the Sierra Club.

Presentation

Mr. Williams gave a presentation about Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Outreach Efforts. He reminded members that he had last gone over outreach efforts in September 2017 and said the current presentation would include updates on that as well as some completely new material.

He noted that OREM has many audiences that each have different needs from OREM. Congress needs to know the Oak Ridge site is a good investment that uses funds wisely. Media want to know about progress on local projects and/or interviews with OREM executives. Other state, local and community groups each have their own priorities. Additionally, OREM has internal audiences – employees both federal and contract.

One way OREM communicates with all its audiences is by participating in the nationwide EM newsletter. The national EM newsletter has gone from 60,000 subscribers to 90,000 over the past year and is now published weekly.

Locally OREM has made significant inroads with TV media, with local channel WBIR doing two significant stories this summer. OREM maintains relationships with other local online and print media. Other recent stories have appeared in the Knoxville News Sentinel, Oak Ridge Today, and the Oak Ridger, for example.

OREM also maintains its own channels, distributing news and information via its website and social media as well as by regularly attending and presenting to local organization meetings as well as national conferences. Oak Ridge's social media is one of the top in the entire complex. ORSSAB is another local outreach channel for OREM.

Williams also encouraged attendees to read OREM's 3 major annual publications: the Cleanup Progress Report, Public Involvement Plan, and OREM 10-Year Program Plan. These and more are available online at www.energy.gov/orem/news.

OREM uses all these outreach efforts to communicate four major messages:

- Oak Ridge is investment-worthy
- Vision 2020 is within reach
- Preparation is underway for cleanup at ORNL and Y-12 and
- Additional Waste Disposal Capacity is needed for the future of the cleanup program.

Mr. Williams shared a video overview of Oak Ridge's excess contaminated facilities program, which can be found at the OREM YouTube account: www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWv_2wyjjvU. He said OREM is placing a renewed emphasis on video content and has recently provided project updates for East Tennessee Technology Park and Y-12 as well as an overview of the proposed new waste disposal site in this way.

After the presentation board members asked the following questions:

Mr. Burroughs asked about the next update of the 10-year plan. Mr. Williams said it is updated every two years and that it includes 8 goals that OREM has set for itself. Each goal has its own sub-goals based on the wider view. Mr. Burroughs also asked how OREM includes extra funding that Congress gives in the plan update? Mr. Williams said those sorts of updates are definitely included in the plan at the next publication. In the meantime, the information is disseminated in other ways.

Mr. Trujillo asked to what extent does DOE and its partners agree or disagree with the risk-based approach to doing cleanup? Mr. Williams suggested Connie Jones could help answer that question. She said the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act planning process is done on a three-year basis. She said EPA knows DOE may not be able to plan as much as the partners would like because it is dependent on funding. In terms of Y-12 efforts, there was plus up money that was not in the 3 year plan goal, she explained. She said EPA would like a bit more input into OREM's budget request for this reason.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Motions

10/10/2018.1 Motion to approve the agenda

Ms. Price motioned, it was seconded and the motion passed unanimously

10/10/2018.2

Mr. Burroughs reported on the meeting minutes from the September meeting. Eddie Holden moved and Rudy Weigel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10/10/2018.3

Mr. Burroughs reported that he had spoken with Deni Sobek and that she had asked to withdraw from her position on the board. Mr. Trujillo was in attendance at the meeting. No further action was taken on the attendance issue.

10/10/2018.4

Ms. Price presented the EMSSAB chairs recommendation. She noted it reflected the conversation of other SSABs around the country that DOE needs to do more outreach. She said that she and Mr. Wilson, who attended the most recent chairs meeting, agreed that other sites do not do as comprehensive a job as the Oak Ridge communications staff. She said the recommendation mostly gives a list of suggested items that DOE could undertake such as new tours, educational materials and etc. The chairs recommend that individual site managers and advisory boards take a look at these examples and work collaboratively to see what would work best at their individual sites. Ms. Price recommended Oak Ridge approve the recommendation to help out other sites.

Ms. Price moved to approve the recommendation and Leon Baker seconded. However some questions were asked.

John Tapp asked how much of what's in the recommendation is Oak Ridge already doing? Ms. Price said she felt Oak Ridge is doing a lot of what was suggested. She also reminded members that ORSSAB had in the past crafted its own local recommendation on the topic.

Mr. Tapp asked further if ORSSAB should be working more with Mr. Williams to do outreach. Mr. Trujillo asked if the board itself was supposed to undertake the suggested activities. Ms. Price clarified that the items were intended for collaboration with DOE and that the board could also propose anything else it thought would be a good outreach method.

Ms. Jones said that ORSSAB supports the EM Program in terms of cleanup. She noted there are community involvement requirements under CERCLA and that many of them are discussed in the Public Involvement Plan referred to in Mr. Williams' presentation. She said she welcomed any input from the board on enhancing DOE's outreach efforts to the community.

Ms. Price reminded attendees that the board recently updated its own Public Outreach presentation if any board members wanted to educate other organizations they were a part of as to the workings of ORSSAB.

Following the discussion, board members voted unanimously to approve the recommendation.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe said DOE was working on its response to the EMDF recommendation and should complete it within the customary 60-day requested deadline.

Committee Reports

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Shields noted there was discussion of the proposed airport at ETTP. Mr. Shields also noted that, personally, he was very impressed as a new member who has attended some national conferences that the Oak Ridge site seems ahead of many other sites in its efforts. He encouraged other members to attend national conferences to get that wider viewpoint.

Executive – Ms. Lohmann noted that Mr. Shields was elected chair and Mr. Trujillo vice chair of the EM & Stewardship Committee. She said the executive committee is looking at updating the board bylaws. Additionally, she said efforts are beginning to find a venue for the next annual meeting and asked members to provide suggestions to officers or staff. She noted that the committee had asked for updates on website traffic and that ORSSAB had seen growth.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Mr. Trujillo asked for an update on the proposed plan on EMDF. Ms. Jones said that the plan is currently in its public comment period. Based on that feedback DOE and regulators will look at any needed updates. She noted that Community and State Acceptance are two of the requirements under CERCLA for any remedial action to be finalized in the Record of Decision for the proposal.

Mr. Trujillo explained that he read that TDEC was moving forward with the EMDF plan. Mr. Higgins clarified that through the formal dispute process, DOE, EPA, and TDEC parties agreed to the publication of the proposed plan to solicit public input. TDEC feels there are some issues that have not yet been resolved prior to TDEC fully supporting the EMDF proposed alternative site.

Mr. Trujillo asked how those outstanding issues may stop the process. Mr. Higgins noted that under CERCLA, as Ms. Jones said, there are criteria that must be met, including State Acceptance, prior to the fulfillment of the plan. He said DOE was currently working on the outstanding issues identified by TDEC.

Mr. Trujillo asked about the timeline for approval. Mr. Higgins said the Record of Decision date is currently scheduled for January. He was not certain if current work will impact that deadline. The final schedule will depend on those efforts. Ms. Jones said the initial plan was for a deadline of January 9, but based on a request from the public to extend the public comment period, that will be moved further in the future. Ms. Jones agreed with Mr. Higgins that more information was needed in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. She noted that the agreement will need to go to the EPA administrator in Washington to be approved and its very important for everyone locally to finalize as much information as possible. Mr. Higgins added that the request to extend the public comment period was granted, he believed, and comments could be accepted until a new deadline in December. He reiterated that there would be the Sierra Club meeting at the TDEC office on EMDF. However, he emphasized that public comments must be sent to DOE, not TDEC.

Mr. Burroughs asked if during the proposed plan public comment period individuals could submit both positive and negative comments. Mr. Higgins said yes, all comments would be taken.

Ms. Lohmann reminded members the November meeting would also focus on EMDF and encouraged them to prepare questions for presenter Brian Henry.

Action Items

There were no action items.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the October 10, 2018, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Richard Burroughs, Secretary



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

November 14, 2018