



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

APPROVED November 14, 2018, Meeting Minutes

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 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

David Branch

Richard Burroughs, Secretary

Bill Clark

Martha Deaderick

Sarah Eastburn

Shell Lohmann, Vice Chair

Brooke Pitchers

Leon Shields

Bonnie Shoemaker

John Tapp

Ed Trujillo

Rudy Weigel

Dennis Wilson, Chair

Members Absent

Leon Baker

Belinda Price

Marite Perez

Fred Swindler

Eddie Holden

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)

Brad Stephenson, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

Connie Jones, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by phone

Others Present

Roger Petrie, UCOR

Susan DePaoli, DOE

Olivia Fleenor, Hardin Valley Academy

Brian Henry, DOE

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office

Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office

Ben Williams, DOE

6 members of the public were present.

Liaison Comments

Ms. Noe – Ms. Noe noted that David Adler and Jay Mullis were travelling and unable to attend. She reminded members that the public comment period for EMDF will remain open through December 10.

Presentation

Mr. Henry gave a presentation about OREM's ongoing efforts to assure waste disposal capacity for the cleanup mission in Oak Ridge.

First Mr. Henry gave an overview of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities: East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12); and the current waste disposal facilities.

He explained that OREM has several current and previously closed landfills, each permitted to take certain types of waste: Industrial Landfills and Construction/Demolition Landfills are known as sanitary landfills. Sanitary landfills are permitted by the State of Tennessee. The current low-level contaminated waste facility, the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF), and the proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), which would replace it, are under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) regulations. Mr. Henry noted that a final cap on Area 1 of the Industrial Landfill IV was just placed this month.

He emphasized that OREM has a waste hierarchy where it first tries to recycle or reuse as much material as possible. Second, OREM prioritizes waste into the sanitary landfills, then low-hazard waste into the EMWMF, and finally, the most hazardous contaminated waste is separated and shipped offsite.

Mr. Henry went over the history of EMWMF, which is used for waste from the cleanup of ETTP. Next was an overview of the proposed new facility, EMDF, which will be needed to contain waste from cleanup at ORNL and Y-12. The proposed plan for EMDF was released in September and public comments will be accepted through December 10.

One phase of characterization at DOE's preferred site has been completed to inform facility design. OREM installed 16 monitoring wells and conducted soil sampling and other tests, Henry said. A second phase of characterization is ongoing to support design as well as infrastructure and transportation needs. That will include 14 additional wells and additional study of bedrock and seismic stability, he said. Mr. Henry emphasized that OREM would prefer to have some service overlap (about two years) with both EMWMF and EMDF open at the same time so that materials not suited for the top of EMWMF can be disposed at the base of EMDF.

Mr. Henry showed attendees a video on OREM cleanup and the need for a new facility. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/usdoeoakridge>.

After the presentation board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Branch asked how long the geomembrane used as part of the landfill cap will last.
 - Mr. Henry said it was 60 millimeters thick (mm) and will last hundreds of years.
- Mr. Weigel asked for additional information on how the landfills are capped.
 - Mr. Henry said the membrane was a temporary cover to shed water while the landfill is in progress. He noted that the closure process will include several other layers of clay, soil, and other materials, which will cover the membrane.
- Mr. Weigel asked about a former disposal site with walk in pits near the Bear Creek Burial Grounds.
 - Mr. Henry said multiple locations were considered as potential sites, but not the Bear Creek Burial grounds as a decision on final remedial actions for that area has not been made.

- Mr. Burroughs asked about debris that would be better used for base material for the new landfill and where that waste was being stored currently.
 - Mr. Henry said there was still unused floor space in cell 6 of the current EMWMF, which will last for some time while EMDF is constructed. He noted that preferred base material is usually large, heavy items like construction equipment.
- Ms. Shoemaker asked for clarification on the old burial grounds.
 - Mr. Henry said a decision for final remediation of the burial grounds would be made in the future. For now, OREM monitors water and other issues in those areas until a final solution is agreed on by DOE and its regulators.
- Ms. Shoemaker asked how water runoff from the landfill is treated.
 - Mr. Henry said water is held and tested on site. Any contaminated liquid is sent to the Liquid Gaseous Waste Operations facility at ORNL for treatment. But he noted no contact water had needed this treatment for at least 5 years.
- Ms. Eastburn asked about stewardship of the current landfill, including funding from TDEC.
 - Mr. Henry said DOE or its successors would have responsibility for the landfill in perpetuity. While there is a \$18 million fund to maintain the current facility, the state would prefer not to have that type of trust fund for any future landfills, Mr. Stephenson said. Mr. Henry noted that it is certain that DOE will be in Oak Ridge for the long term due to the ongoing missions at ORNL and Y-12.
- Mr. Tapp asked for an update on public outreach on plans for EMDF.
 - Mr. Henry said that DOE has had several poster sessions and TDEC and the Sierra Club also hosted a session at TDEC's Oak Ridge office. Most recently, he said, was the November 7 presentation at the New Hope Center where the public was invited to comment. He said individuals as well as the city of Oak Ridge representatives and those from other organizations were heard. In addition to that, DOE is accepting written comments through December 10.
- Mr. Tapp asked how DOE would deal with concerns expressed by TDEC on the design of the landfill.
 - Mr. Henry said DOE has had lengthy discussions with EPA and TDEC. The new landfill is currently at the conceptual design stage, Mr. Henry said. Once a record of decision is made, changes to address concerns can be incorporated. In addition some requirements may be requested to be waived through agreement by the regulators. DOE will continue to have those discussions with EPA and TDEC during preliminary and final design. DOE is committed to ensuring separation between waste and groundwater for the facility.
- Mr. Trujillo said regarding the hydrology of the site, many questions were asked at the public meeting, which he attended. He said he didn't understand the remedial investigation and feasibility study, which have not been approved by regulators being used. When in the process does the information from the RIFS affect the design?
 - Mr. Henry said there are processes under CERCLA to come to consensus on the unapproved documents. That dispute process is part of how the regulators and DOE came to the agreement to release a conceptual plan for public comment. The information DOE gathers going forward will inform the remedial design that EPA and TDEC will analyze and approve. And on DOE's side that's preliminary and final design. He noted that the preferred location for the landfill was picked in a large part due to the state's concerns on hydrology.
- Mr. Trujillo further asked about the landfill waste acceptance criteria (WAC).
 - Mr. Henry said through agreement with EPA and TDEC the WAC would be included in the record of decision for the facility.
- Mr. Clark asked how the area around the landfill would be monitored.
 - Mr. Henry said there will be monitoring wells as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facility requirements to give a buffer and include the potential for needed corrective actions. He noted that OREM will soon discuss baseline monitoring around the facility with regulators. As it moves closer to construction, DOE will further discuss where to place wells. He

said there are currently 18 monitoring wells of this type around EMWMF.

- Mr. Weigel asked about DOE's plan to deal with water under the new waste facility.
 - Mr. Henry said there will be a leachate collection system under the landfill as well as collection of runoff.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Motions

11/14/2018.1 Motion to approve the agenda

The motion was carried unanimously.

11/14/2018.2

Mr. Burroughs reported on the meeting minutes from the October meeting.

Ms. Shoemaker Moved and Mr. Weigel seconded to approve. The motion carried.

10/10/2018.3

Mr. Burroughs reported that he had spoken with Martha Deaderick. She was in attendance at the meeting and no further action was taken on the attendance issue.

Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report

Ms. Noe noted DOE had provided its response to the EMDF recommendation and it was included in the meeting packets. She also reminded members that DOE is seeking new members for FY2019 and the deadline to apply was January 16.

Committee Reports

EM & Stewardship – Mr. Shields said the committee discussed the EMDF public meetings and that TDEC was able to share some educational materials, which were later sent out to all members by email.

Executive – Mr. Wilson noted that the meeting was postponed so executives could attend the EMDF public meeting. He said the meeting was very diverse and it was informative to hear the various viewpoints expressed.

Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion

Mr. Wilson encouraged all members to look at information sent out by staff on proposed new definitions for high level and low level waste that DOE is currently considering.

Mr. Weigel asked about particular requirements in the changes. Mr. Wilson noted that a significant change would be looking with greater emphasis on amount of radioactivity vs. where the waste came from.

Mr. Trujillo requested that DOE provide a summary version of the CERCLA or Superfund Process. He said he was not sure what the steps were for planning through creation of the new landfill. A presentation or a summary sheet would be fine. He said it would help with a potential recommendation. Ms. Noe agreed to provide some information.

Mr. Branch asked if the board could receive a sample of the membrane used on the landfills to be able to better understand. Ms. Noe said that could be provided.

Mr. Tapp asked if the tour was still on schedule regardless of weather. Staff said it was.

Action Items

1. DOE will provide information on the CERCLA process

2. DOE will show members examples of some of the membrane used in the waste disposal facilities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the November 14, 2018, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

Richard Burroughs, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Wilson".

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

March 13, 2019