



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

# Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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## *Monthly Meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

### **APPROVED March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) held its monthly meeting virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 6 p.m. Copies of referenced meeting materials are attached to these minutes. A video of the presentation portion of the meeting was made and is available on the board's YouTube site at [www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos](http://www.youtube.com/user/ORSSAB/videos).

#### **Members Present**

Amy Jones  
Noah Keebler  
Shell Lohmann, Chair  
Harriett McCurdy  
Marite Perez

Georgette Samaras  
Michael Sharpe  
Leon Shields, Vice Chair  
Bonnie Shoemaker,  
Secretary

Fred Swindler  
John Tapp  
Tom Tuck

#### **Members Absent**

Leon Baker  
Andrea Browning  
Richard Burroughs

Chris Hampel  
Greg Malone  
Robert Whitaker

Dennis Wilson  
Rudy Weigel  
Zach Wilkins

<sup>1</sup>Third consecutive absence

#### **Liaisons, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, and Alternates Present**

Jay Mullis, Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (DOE-OREM) Manager  
Laura Wilkerson, OREM Deputy Manager  
Alan Stokes, Director, OREM Planning & Execution  
Dave Adler, ORSSAB Deputy Federal Designated Officer, DOE-OREM  
Melyssa Noe, ORSSAB Alternate Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), OREM  
Kristof Czartoryski, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)  
Connie Jones, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

#### **Others Present**

Shelley Kimel, ORSSAB Support Office  
Sara McManamy-Johnson, ORSSAB Support Office  
Roger Petrie, OREM  
Brian Henry, OREM  
Nathan Felosi, OREM

James Daffron, OREM  
Heather Lutz, TDEC  
Sonya Johnson, UCOR  
Conner Ingram, DOE-HQ  
Gary Younger, DOE

Four members of the public were present.

### **Liaison Comments**

**Mr. Mullis** – Mr. Mullis introduced and welcomed new members of the board. Next, he updated members on program highlights, including completion of the core cleanup at East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) last fall, marking DOE’s largest completed decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) project and the first time in the world a former uranium enrichment facility has been removed. He said crews at ETTP continue soil remediation and identifying groundwater remediation approaches. He said the majority of the crews that were working at ETTP have transitioned to Y-12 and ORNL, where there were a couple of demolition projects underway, including a hot cell at Building 3026 at ORNL. He said crews completed demolition of one of two large buildings and began work on the second large building in the Biology Complex at Y-12.

He told members DOE has a new Secretary, Jennifer Granholm, who was a two-term governor in Michigan, and a new team is transitioning in. He said a new regulatory framework within TDEC and EPA has been in place for one year. He said that framework has been very helpful in accelerating discussions and resolutions on regulatory topics. He said DOE and EPA had resolved a formal dispute on water discharge and regulatory limits, and he believes DOE is on track to submit a Record of Decision by July, which is the milestone.

**Ms. Jones** – Ms. Jones said the with the Administration change, EPA has a new Acting Regional Administrator while waiting for a permanent Regional Administrator.

**Mr. Czartoryski** – None.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Lohmann introduced Jay Mullis, presenter for the evening’s topic, the FY 2023 Budget.

Mr. Mullis gave members an overview of the federal budget process, which he explained is a three-year process: the current year, the next year, and the following. He said currently DOE is awaiting feedback on the FY 2022 budget, but is also starting the budget build process for FY 2023, the part of the process in which the agencies develop and submit a budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for their review. He said that FY 2023 budget is the one for which DOE is particularly interested in receiving board input.

Next, Mr. Mullis gave members an overview of DOE’s primary mission areas for environmental cleanup nationally and an overview of recent EM budget figures, both nationally and specific to Oak Ridge. He said Oak Ridge’s cleanup is funded through multiple accounts and explained how funds appropriated are tied to those specific accounts.

Additionally, Mr. Mullis provided an overview of OREM’s program goals articulated a few years ago for future EM activities, which include complete ETTP cleanup, disposition ORNL uranium-233 inventory, disposition ORNL transuranic waste inventory, and address Y-12 mercury contamination. He said these goals set a clear understanding among employees, contractors, and stakeholders for what those goals are.

Mr. Mullis next described the work that had been completed at ETTP, showing images that illustrate the progress made at the site and giving the current status of land transfers and private sector development. He also told

members about the recently opened K-25 History Center and the ways in which it commemorates the accomplishments of Manhattan Project and Cold War-era workers.

After that, Mr. Mullis described OREM's remaining CERCLA obligations at Y-12 and ORNL; at ORNL, that includes removing former research reactors and isotope production facilities, eliminating uranium-233 inventory and shipping transuranic waste. At Y-12, that includes addressing and retrieving mercury in the environment and removing unneeded and contaminated buildings. He told members that several key infrastructure projects are needed to conduct the next phase of cleanup in Oak Ridge, including the Outfall 200 Mercury Treatment Facility, the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF), a haul road extension, and office and equipment storage areas.

He then went into additional detail about the work being done to address the nation's uranium-233 inventory stored at ORNL, the work being done to eliminate Oak Ridge's inventory of transuranic waste, and the construction underway to build the Mercury Treatment Facility, which he noted is already fully funded. He also gave additional detail about the research underway at the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory at ORNL, as well as the need for additional waste disposal storage capacity.

Mr. Mullis told members that two guiding principles within OREM are to remain investment worthy and to finish what is started. He added that the ETTP demolition was completed four years ahead of schedule and \$80 million under cost, which translated to a cost savings for taxpayers of about \$500 million dollars after factoring environmental liability.

He told members that OREM uses ORSSAB's recommendations. He said members help OREM better understand local perspectives and points of view about cleanup and preferred priorities and recommendations from ORSSAB play a role in OREM's budget request and formulation process.

After the presentation, board members asked the following questions:

- Mr. Tapp asked, with the ROD nearly finished, where is the City of Oak Ridge in terms of support regarding EMDF.
  - Mr. Mullis said he had not heard from the City of Oak Ridge, but it is represented by the State of Tennessee. He said once the ROD is submitted and approved, it goes through a public comment process.

Mr. Adler added that he thinks the City recognizes the need for a landfill for the higher volume low-hazard material that's generated by the cleanup program; he said that type of material is about 90 percent of the material generated. He said what the City is focused on is trying to make sure that the most hazardous materials do not end up in Oak Ridge. He said he does not want to speak for the City, but he believes generally their focus has been on what goes into the cell, as opposed to whether OREM has adequate disposal capacity for the cleanup program.

Mr. Mullis said OREM is also looking at researching additional methodologies and equipment that may be used in Oak Ridge to help address mercury.

- Mr. Sharpe asked what guidelines will be used for the materials when they go into the waste disposal facilities and who will determine the discharge limits.
  - Mr. Mullis said there are limits that will be set through the regulatory process, which will

be used to develop a list of waste acceptance criteria. He said OREM has made a commitment to build an on-site treatment facility for the proposed EMDF.

Mr. Adler added that OREM is currently working with TDEC and the EPA on what goes into the cell and what limits are used to control any water discharges from the cell. He said those systems are already in place for the existing and are currently being refined for what would be appropriate for a new cell. He also noted that no high-hazard material would be accepted at the cell.

### **Questions from the Public**

None.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Board Business/Motions**

1. Ms. Lohmann asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
  - a. **3.10.21.1 Motion to approve the agenda**  
Motion made by Mr. Tapp and seconded by Mr. Shields. Motion passed unanimously.
  - b. **3.10.21.2 Motion to approve March 11, 2020 meeting minutes**  
Motion made by Ms. Jones and seconded by Mr. Shields. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Ms. Noe presented the FY 2021 ORSSAB Work Plan/Schedule.
  - a. She told members this work plan picks up where the board left off in 2020. She said there will not be an April meeting due to the EM SSAB Chairs Meeting. The May meeting topic will be EMDF, and June's topic will be groundwater. She said plans for the Annual Planning Meeting are still underway and could potentially be moved to September. She said more information would be available in the next few month. She noted there are no tours planned due to current limits on the number of people allowed in government vehicles.  
  
Ms. Lohmann asked new members to consider signing up to be on issue groups.
3. Ms. Jones opened the floor for nominations for the board's FY 2021 Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions.
  - a. Current Chair Shell Lohmann was nominated. With no other nominations, Ms. Lohmann was elected Chair for FY 2021.
  - b. Current Vice Chair Leon Shields and member Chris Hampel were nominated. Mr. Shields received the majority of votes and was elected Vice Chair.
  - c. Current Secretary Bonnie Shoemaker was nominated. With no other nominations, Ms. Shoemaker was elected Secretary.

### **Responses to Recommendations & Alternate DDFO Report**

Ms. Noe said there are no open recommendations, but new member packages have been submitted to headquarters and are going through the review process.

**Committee Reports**

Executive – Ms. Lohmann said the Executive Committee would continue to meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future. She said the committee met the week before and discussed the work plan and the upcoming Chairs Meeting, including the charges the board had been tasked with during the previous Chairs meeting.

EM & Stewardship – Ms. Jones said the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 24 at 6 p.m. on Zoom. She said elections would be held for committee Chair and Vice Chair, and she reminded members to sign up for issue groups.

**Additions to the Agenda & Open Discussion**

None.

**Action Items**

*Open*

None

*Closed*

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the March 10, 2021, meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.



Michelle Lohmann, Chair



Bonnie Shoemaker, Secretary

May 12, 2021

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board