



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

June 14, 2022

Laura Wilkerson
Acting Manager for Environmental Management
DOE-Oak Ridge Office
P.O. Box 2001, EM 90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Ms. Wilkerson:

Recommendation 249: On the FY 2023 OREM Program Budget Priorities

At our March 9, 2022 meeting the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed recommendation on the FY2024 Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) Budget Priorities.

The recommendation is based on the March 2022 presentation to the board on the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program as well as the 10-year Program Plan, EM Strategic Vision document, and the current EM Budget Request.

We ask that DOE consider these recommendations as it formulates its own plan for future budget needs. There are five specific points in the recommendation the board would like you to address in your response. We appreciate your consideration of our input and look forward to receiving your response by July 18, 2022.

Sincerely,

Leon Shields, Chair

Enclosures

cc/enc:

Kelly Snyder, EM-3.2, FORS
Kristof Czartoryski, TDEC, Oak Ridge
Terry Frank, Anderson County Mayor
Samantha Urquhart-Foster, EPA Region 4

Melyssa Noe, EM-942
Mark Watson, Oak Ridge City Manager
Ron Woody, Roane County Executive



Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Recommendation 249: On the FY 2024 Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program Budget Priorities

Background

Each year the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Program develops its budget request for the fiscal year (FY) two years beyond the current year, including requests from DOE field offices to develop the EM Program budget request to the president.

DOE-EM Headquarters typically issues guidelines to the field offices advising them how much funding they should reasonably expect when developing their FY+2 budget requests. The field offices then brief the public, the regulatory agencies, and the respective site-specific advisory boards and seek input from each regarding budget requests.

On March 9, 2022, the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (OREM) program presented on its FY 2024 budget formulation process to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB). This presentation provided content and discussions that ORSSAB used to draft its recommendations.

Discussion

In creating its recommendations for the FY 2024 OREM budget, ORSSAB focused on general near-term and long-term cleanup priorities identified by OREM:

- Closure of East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP)
 - Complete remediation of slabs and soils and other activities required to close ETTP and transfer long-term stewardship to Legacy Management
- Demolish excess contaminated facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12)
 - Continue pre-demolition, deactivation, and remediation activities
- Progress infrastructure to enable cleanup
 - Mercury Treatment Facility
 - New CERCLA waste disposal facility (EMDF)
 - Continue mercury technology development
- Disposition ORNL uranium-233 inventory
 - Complete uranium-233 direct disposition campaign
 - Conduct down-blending operations and dispose of remaining uranium-233 inventory
- Disposition ORNL transuranic waste inventory
 - Complete disposition of transuranic debris waste
 - Complete construction of the Sludge Processing Facility
- Maintain and operate facilities at ORNL and Y-12
 - Continued safe operation of waste disposal and treatment facilities
 - Continue activities to extend life of aging facilities.

Project-specific objectives provided additional details for discussions that took place at the March 23, 2022, EM & Stewardship Committee meeting. The board referred to the [OREM 10-year Program Plan](#), the [EM Strategic Vision: 2022–2032](#), the current [EM Budget Request](#), and the board’s [previous Recommendations](#) for additional guidance on budget recommendations.¹

Recommendations

ORSSAB supports OREM’s Program Plan and recommends fully funding the activities that are currently supported by that Plan for FY 2024. In addition, ORSSAB has identified the following priorities for Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup.

The board recommends that the FY 2024 OREM budget request reflect adequate funding to maintain or accelerate these projects. In addition, when extra funds from suitable plus-ups and savings become available, we recommend that these funds be targeted for the following projects, in no particular order of priority:

- The expansion of ORNL’s Aquatic Ecology Laboratory provides a vital resource to the EM complex. Future requests should continue funding support for research into mercury and methyl-mercury pollution and prioritize designing and testing new and improved remediation technologies.
- Provide adequate funding to construct and operate the urgently needed new onsite disposition facility to allow uninterrupted cleanup progress at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12).
- Increase funding where possible to ensure the Mercury Treatment Facility meets the operational date of 2025 as presented to the community and ORSSAB. In addition, consider using plus-ups or surplus funds to upgrade equipment and technology that may have improved since the original schedule was developed.
- Provide adequate funds to maintain or upgrade infrastructure
- Complete transfer of all applicable land parcels at ETPP for productive purposes. Continue working with community partners to fully realize the economic development potential of reindustrialization after transfer.

¹ All documents are available on www.energy.gov/orem or www.energy.gov/orssab.