

# OAK RIDGE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (OREM)

“Our progress in 2023 has reshaped the landscape, created new opportunities, and positioned Oak Ridge for a better future. Our employees removed contaminated facilities, continued reducing the site’s inventory of nuclear waste, and we’re transferring cleaned land that can benefit the region in the years ahead.”

– Jay Mullis, Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Completed demolition on the Low Intensity Test Reactor—an EM 2023 priority.**
- **Began early site preparation for the Environmental Management Disposal Facility—an EM 2023 priority.**
- Transferred 376 acres of land for economic development.
- Released two draft Records of Decision about groundwater for public comment.
- Broke ground on the K-25 Viewing Platform.
- Forged new partnerships to aid workforce development.



Crews safely take down the Low Intensity Test Reactor in ORNL's central campus.

## CLEARING AWAY THE OLD AND MAKING WAY FOR THE NEW

The Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management completed an EM 2023 priority by finishing demolition on the Low Intensity Test Reactor. This is the second reactor teardown in the heart of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) site in a year, clearing high-risk buildings that have been shut down for decades, and opening land for future research missions.

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

OREM achieved an EM 2023 priority by breaking ground and beginning early site preparations on the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF). With OREM’s current onsite disposal facility nearing full capacity, EMDF is essential to maintain its cleanup momentum.

Construction also progressed on the Mercury Treatment Facility at Y-12. Crews finished the framework on the treatment plant and the foundation for the headworks facility. When operational, this facility will allow OREM to address Y-12’s large, mercury-contaminated facilities and sources of mercury in the soil by preventing releases into the nearby creek.

## USHERING IN THE NEXT CHAPTER AT THE EAST TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGY PARK

Planning took a major step forward when regulators approved proposed plans for addressing groundwater at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP).



*Aerial photo of the ETTP, where OREM has recently transferred 376 additional acres for economic development.*

Those plans chart OREM's path to complete cleanup and achieve its ultimate vision of transforming ETTP into a multi-use industrial center, national park and conservation area for the community.

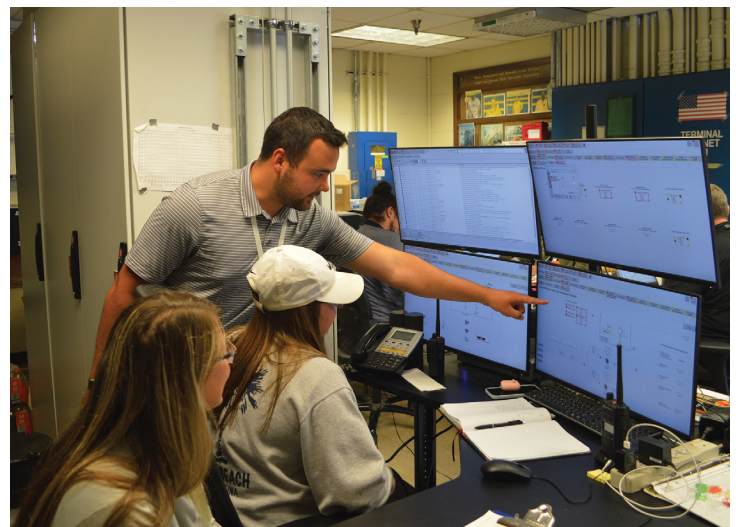
Progress toward this end-state use was realized by transferring 376 acres for economic development, bringing the total to more than 1,600 acres. Three thousand acres are in a conservation easement and more than 100 acres are set aside for historic preservation.

Construction also started on the new K-25 Viewing Platform that will provide new perspective and aid historic interpretation efforts for visitors.

### **STRENGTHENING AND EQUIPPING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE**

Through expanding partnerships with colleges and universities, Oak Ridge attracted its largest summer intern program on record, with 40 students from 14 schools across the country. The newest agreement

with Tennessee Tech University is creating more career opportunities for students and helping the school launch a new nuclear engineering degree.



*Chemical operator apprentices from Roane State Community College work to support OREM's operations at the Liquid and Gaseous Waste Operations.*