



Public Involvement News

U.S. Department of Energy • Oak Ridge Office

August 2010

Announcements

ORSSAB Survey Being Conducted

In 1995, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) was established to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on its Oak Ridge environmental cleanup program.

Because public comment is important to the ORSSAB study and recommendation process, we are asking you to share your concerns and opinions regarding the environmental management issues related to DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). To help you share your feedback with us, we have created a short survey that should take you about five minutes to complete.

Please complete the survey and share your thoughts at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DJ6V3VF. If you would like more information about the ORSSAB, please visit www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab. To have a survey form sent to your home, please call the ORSSAB support offices at (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584.

EMWMF Cell 6 Construction Under Way

Construction on Cell 6 of the Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) is under way at the DOE Oak Ridge facility in Tennessee. Environmental regulators approved the expansion of DOE's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) landfill that will increase the disposal capacity in Oak Ridge to 2.2 million cubic yards. Cleanup at the Oak Ridge Reservation is primarily governed by three regulatory agreements or compliance orders, including one between the DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that establishes a schedule for developing, implementing, and monitoring appropriate site response actions under the law.

Cell 6 is being constructed by Avisco, which is the same woman-owned company that recently completed construction on the EMWMF Cell 5. Cell 5, which brought the disposal capacity to 1.7 million cubic yards, was a successful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project completed in May ahead of schedule and under budget. The overall project baseline for Cell 6 construction is \$31 million. The EMWMF expansion work is highly sensitive to rain and cold temperatures. To take advantage of the

April-October construction season and minimize potential weather delays and cost impacts, field activities for the construction of Cell 6 began upon informal agreement and concurrent with obtaining formal regulatory approval.

EMWMF is a valuable asset to the Oak Ridge Environmental Management (EM) Program. The disposal cell allows waste generated from cleanup activities to be disposed of locally rather than having to be shipped offsite, saving taxpayers millions of dollars annually in transportation and other related costs.

Final RFP for Reservation Cleanup Issued

The final version of the Request for Proposal (RFP) to succeed Bechtel Jacobs Company as the ORR cleanup contractor has been released and posted on the Web at www.fedconnect.com. Click the "Search Public Opportunities" button and use the search option or scroll through to find "ETTP Contract at Oak Ridge, Tennessee." Bids from prospective contractors are due September 21.

ORSSAB Approves Three Recommendations

The ORSSAB approved three recommendations for DOE to consider at its July meeting.

The first recommendation addressed the request for proposals for a new cleanup contractor for East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and areas at the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. At its June meeting ORSSAB received a briefing on the draft request from DOE personnel and heard comments on it

... continued on page 3

Public Meetings

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

The ORSSAB will hold its annual planning retreat on Saturday, **August 21**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Dancing Bear Lodge in Townsend, Tennessee.

Contact: Pat Halsey, (865) 576-4025

ORSSAB Support Office: (865) 241-4583 or 241-4584

Internet: www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/



CERCLA Administrative Record

New CERCLA Documents Available at the DOE Information Center — June/July 2010

Addendum to the Phased Construction Completion Report for the K-1007 Ponds Area and Powerhouse North Area in Zone 1, East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2294&D2/A1)

Waste Handling Plan for Buildings 3095, 3503, and 3503A at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2453&D2)

Fiscal Year 2007 Phased Construction Completion Report for the Low Risk/Low Complexity Facilities of the Remaining Facilities Demolition Project at the East Tennessee Technology Park, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2362&D3)

Water Resources Restoration Program Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek and Chestnut Ridge Watersheds, Oak Ridge Reservation, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/OR/01-2466&D1)

NEPA Actions

Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Transfer of Land and Facilities Within the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and Surrounding Areas, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (DOE/EA-1640): An EA Determination was made for the proposed transfer of land and facilities located in the northwestern portion of the ORR for mixed (recreational, retail, and industrial) land use. Based on the analysis in the EA, DOE will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact and proceed with the action or prepare an Environmental Impact Statement if the EA reveals the potential for significant environmental impacts. The EA was released for a 30-day public review and comment period on December 28, 2009. In response to stakeholder requests, the comment period for the EA was extended to February 15. Comments are being reviewed and will be incorporated into the final EA.

EA for the Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Climatic and Environmental Change (SPRUCE) Experiment at the Marcell Experimental Forest, Itasca County, Minnesota (DOE/EA-1764): An EA Determination was signed on March 10, to study the effects of altered atmospheric and climate conditions and to obtain information on the response to elevated temperature and elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide of a black spruce-Sphagnum ecosystem. The selected ecosystem is located at the southern extent of the spatially expansive boreal peatland forests and is considered especially vulnerable to climate changes. Research would involve climate change manipulation

activities focused on the response of multiple levels of warming combined with elevated carbon dioxide levels (i.e., 800-900 ppm), the collection of field data, and the evaluation of the response of existing biological communities (plants and animals) to a range of warming levels. These experiments would be conducted in the S1 bog [an ombrotrophic *Picea mariana* (black spruce) – *Sphagnum* spp. forest community] of the Marcell Experimental Forest. The proposed action would take place at the Marcell Experimental Forest, Itasca County, Minnesota, in the Chippewa National Forest. The lands are managed by the USDA Forest Service. Requests for additional information should be addressed to William M. Belvin, NEPA Document Manager, at (865) 576-7321.

NPS Special Resource Study on the Preservation and Interpretation of Historic Sites Associated with the Manhattan Project: The Draft Special Resources Study/EA was posted at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> on December 10, and public comments on the study were solicited through March 1. Meetings were held in January and February in Hanford, Washington; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Dayton, Ohio; and Los Alamos, New Mexico, to seek input from members of the public. Two sessions were held in Oak Ridge on January 26, and a large number of attendees from the Oak Ridge community were present and voiced their comments on the study. Requests for further information should be directed to Carla McConnell at (303) 969-2287.

Announcements (continued from page 1)

by the city of Oak Ridge. An ORSSAB ad hoc committee also studied the draft and submitted specific recommendations that the board approved on July 14 and sent to DOE.

The second set of recommendations dealt with the annual Remediation Effectiveness Report. The report assesses and documents the effectiveness of completed remedial environmental actions on the ORR. The report evaluates the status of ongoing activities, reviews monitoring results, evaluates the effectiveness of remedial actions, reviews stewardship activities, and recommends any changes in monitoring.

Members of the ORSSAB Stewardship Committee reviewed sections of the first draft of the report and developed several specific recommendations that the board approved.

Finally, the board suggested several topics of discussion for a planned conference on long-term surveillance and maintenance of remediated areas in the DOE complex. The November conference in Grand Junction, Colorado, is planned to discuss the many activities necessary to protect human health and the environment after cleanup and disposal of radioactive and hazardous materials.

Contact: Pat Halsey, (865) 576-4025

EM to Launch Contract Performance Web Site

EM plans to unveil a new web page on contract performance that will go live in the coming weeks, according to DOE officials. The information, which will include a breakdown of contracts by site, by contract, and by project, is being made available as part of EM's ongoing effort to increase the transparency of its operations, said Reggie James, Acting Director of the Office of Contract Assistance.

The new section of the EM web site will include green, yellow, or red performance ratings for EM contractors covering both capital and operational projects. For example, if a contractor's Cost Performance Index (CPI) is good, there will be a green indicator. Yellow will denote marginal performance, and red will indicate if the project is behind schedule or over cost. This information will be updated quarterly.

For capital projects, EM plans to use the CPI, Schedule Performance Index (SPI) tools, and other indicators from the Integrated Planning, Accountability, and Budgeting System (IPABS) to measure contractors' performance in line with the Earned Value Management System. All DOE contractors are required to establish such a system

within six months of a contract award for capital projects. James said his office will work with Regulatory Compliance officials to obtain information for capital projects and coordinate with Program and Site Support officials for information covering operational (non-capital) programs.

The new system will give stakeholders and the public the opportunity to see if contractors are on time within cost and schedule.

DOE Announces Energy Efficiency Partnerships

DOE has announced 15 research and deployment partnerships to help dramatically improve the energy efficiency of American homes. These highly-qualified, multi-disciplinary teams will receive a total of up to \$30 million for the initial eighteen months of the projects to deliver innovative energy efficiency strategies to the residential market and address barriers to bringing high-efficiency homes within reach for all Americans.

A total of up to \$20 million per year will also be made available for the partnerships for three potential one-year extensions. These research and deployment partnerships will provide technical assistance to retrofit projects and will leverage industry expertise and funding to support DOE's energy efficiency retrofit programs. This effort will support the Department's Retrofit Ramp-Up initiative, announced by Vice President Joe Biden in April, that brings communities, governments, private sector companies, and non-profit organizations together to deliver energy-efficiency upgrades—or retrofits—to whole neighborhoods and cities.

"Home energy efficiency is one of the easiest, most immediate and most cost-effective ways to reduce carbon pollution and save money on energy bills, while creating new jobs," said Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. "By developing and using tools to reduce residential energy use, we will spur economic growth here in America and help homeowners make cost-cutting improvements in their homes."

The partnerships will provide additional support to ongoing retrofit initiatives that are making cost-effective energy efficiency retrofits easily accessible to hundreds of thousands of American homes and businesses. These partnerships will research and deploy new technologies and demonstration projects, and provide systems engineering, quality assurance, and outreach for retrofit projects throughout the country.

... continued on back page

Announcements (continued from page 3)

Existing techniques and technologies in energy efficiency retrofitting—such as air-tight ducts, windows and doors, heating and cooling systems, insulation, and caulking—can reduce energy use by up to 40% per home and cut energy bills by \$40 billion annually.

EPA Proposing New Pollution Regulations

EPA is proposing regulations to cut air pollution that impairs air quality and harms the health of people living downwind. The regulation will target power plant pollution that drifts across the borders of 31 eastern states, including Tennessee, and the District of Columbia.

Air pollution is linked to thousands of asthma cases and heart attacks and almost 2 million lost school or work days. Along with local and state air pollution controls, the new proposal, called the transport rule, is designed to help areas in the eastern United States meet existing national air quality health standards. The transport rule would reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitro-

gen oxides (NO_x) to meet state-by-state emission reductions. By 2014, the rule and other state and EPA actions would reduce SO₂ emissions by 71% over 2005 levels. NO_x emissions would drop by 52%.

EPA is using the “good neighbor” provision of the Clean Air Act to reduce interstate transport, which is the upwind state emissions that contribute to air quality problems in downwind states. The proposed rule sets in place a new approach that can and will be applied again as further pollution reductions are needed to help areas meet air quality health standards.

SO₂ and NO_x react in the atmosphere to form fine particle pollution and ground-level ozone (smog), which are linked to widespread illnesses and premature deaths. These pollutants are carried in the wind to other states, contributing to health problems for the residents and interfering with the states’ abilities to meet air quality standards.

U.S. Department of Energy
c/o Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC
P.O. Box 4699
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-7294