NRDAR AND THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

THE BLACK OAK RIDGE CONSERVATION EASEMENT (BORCE)

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION (ORR) BACKGROUND

- Historically, the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) was used in the Manhattan Project:
 - East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP), Y-12, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) are the three site locations in the ORR
 - ETTP, Y12 and ORNL served different functions to process materials for nuclear weapons in World War II under the US Department of Energy (DOE)
 - Y-12 and ORNL are still active DOE locations



OAK RIDGE RESERVATION (ORR) BACKGROUND

- ORR consists of about 33,750 acres
- Contaminants of concern on the ORR include: PCBs, VOCs, Mercury, and Radionuclides
- Listed on EPA's National Priority List of Superfund Sites in 1989
- DOE, EPA and TDEC entered into the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) in 1992
 - FFA is CERCLA agreement to promote cooperation in investigation and remediation of ORR
 - Provides legal framework for remediation activities at the ORR

ORR BACKGROUND CONTINUED

- The reservation is divided into operable units (OU) to better assess the associated cleanup activities
 - There are about 54 operable units on the ORR
- Remedial Actions are ongoing on the ORR under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability act of 1980 (CERCLA)
 - Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration(NRDAR) is a separate process from remedial action decisions
 - A Record of Decision (ROD) documents cleanup actions to be taken based on human health and ecological risk evaluation.
 - NRDAR is a legal action where compensation is sought for damages to natural resources.

LOWER WATTS BAR RESERVOIR OU (THE BORCE)



- To-Date only NRDAR for the first Oak Ridge Reservation Operable Unit (OU) has been settled and completed
- The Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement (BORCE) was designated as compensation for damages to natural resources within the first operable unit, Lower Watts Bar Reservoir.
- The US Department of Energy was the responsible party for the natural resource damages in Lower Watts Bar Reservoir under the settlement

LOWER WATTS BAR RESERVOIR OU (THE BORCE) CONTINUED

- An indefinite term easement for the BORCE was granted in April of 2005 as a result of NRDAR evaluation
 - The BORCE is a forested area that includes East Black Oak Ridge, West Black Oak Ridge and McKinney Ridge
 - The BORCE provides the community with trails for walking and outdoor activities and protected ecological habitat as compensation for the damages to the Lower Watts Bar Reservoir
 - The Conservation Easement is 2,965.95 Acres
- As part of the agreement, DOE will pay \$36,800 annually to the state to fund management and maintenance of the BORCE
- In addition to the BORCE, DOE was also required to pay \$50,000 to the Trustee Council for restoration projects to benefit recreational fishing in the Lower Watts Barr Reservoir

NEXT STEPS FOR THE ORR

- What further actions are in place for the Oak Ridge Reservation under the NRDAR?
 - Injury determination including wildlife, sediment, and groundwater are ongoing
 - Because the NRDAR is a legal action, the current proceedings are confidential.
 - The ORR is a unique case because the Department of Energy is considered the responsible party
- How to stay involved in future actions:
 - Actions under the NRDAR have to be published in a Draft Restoration and Compensation Plan that goes out for public review and comment
 - All public comments and responses will be published in a final document