

**Work Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)
FY20 (July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020)**

Introduction:

In November 2018, the U.S Department of Energy (DOE), the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the State of Tennessee (State) signed a five-year agreement entitled the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) Environmental Surveillance Oversight (ESO) Agreement. Through a program of independent environmental surveillance oversight and monitoring, the ESO Agreement is “designed to assure the citizens of Tennessee that DOE’s activities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment.” In carrying out the ESO Agreement, “the Parties will fully cooperate and coordinate with each other, other federal and State agencies and local governments affected by this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement shall commit to maintaining a direct and open relationship with local governments, such as **engagement with the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA).**”

In December 2017, the DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the recovery of expenses as described in the Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) Section XXXV. The MOA addresses recovery of expenses by TDEC for costs specifically related to the implementation of the FFA. The MOA specifies stakeholder and public information liaison with “**the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance**, hosting public information sessions, and responding to the local governments’ and community’s concerns, specific to FFA and Environmental Management activities.”

As stated in the above referenced agreements, for the purposes of this work plan, the term DOE shall include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

The Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement (TOIA) was signed by ORRCA members on June 14, 2016 for a term through June 30, 2021. A revised TOIA is being considered by ORRCA members to reflect the new ESO and MOA as described above. The following section describes the work plan to be implemented by ORRCA during FY2020 in support of the ESO and MOA.

Scope of Services:

A. The Grantee shall support implementation of the Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement (TOIA)

The TOIA will serve as the framework for the operation of ORRCA. ORRCA will conduct outreach and educational activities to the public and potentially affected local governments to help communicate to the citizens of the affected local governments that the DOE’s activities are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment.

At the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) annual Intergovernmental Meeting held in November 2019, a discussion was held among ORRCA, DOE and the State of Tennessee representatives to identify priorities for clean-up of the Oak Ridge Reservation. The parties agreed that ORRCA would continue to serve as a key interface for ongoing collaboration on cleanup, reuse, and emergency planning/response issues.

B. The Grantee shall promote local government involvement and public awareness in the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities, including, but not limited to the environmental restoration process.

ORCCA will continue to collaborate among the regional local governments to promote better understanding of the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities, including environmental management, oversight, and emergency response programs. Participation with DOE, EPA, TDEC, and TEMA officials in meetings, such as those listed in this plan as “Upcoming Meetings of Interest,” will be instrumental in educating local officials in support of the grant scope.

During FY20 particular emphasis will be placed on:

- Enhancing communication with DOE, EPA, and TDEC regarding local priorities and concerns related to Environmental Management Projects, Priorities and Budgets
- Improving coordination among the agencies and ORRCA members on key environmental programs such as storm water mapping, infrastructure and management
- Serving as a local resource on contracting mechanisms to potentially reduce long term environmental liability through efficient, effective clean-up
- Improving local officials’ and the public’s understanding of regulatory waivers and the cost/benefit of this approach for the cleanup of the ORR
- Site characterization and the development of Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) for waste disposition
- Improving local officials’ and the public’s understanding of DOE’s policy of integrating NEPA values into CERCLA, and associated costs/benefits
- Improving understanding of Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) process and milestones
- Participating in Emergency Response Planning and Training related to the ORR
- Engaging in Environmental Management activities related to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- Continuing to enhance understanding of the relative risk associated with the ORR in order to improve off-site emergency planning and response

C. The Grantee shall disseminate accurate and factual information concerning present or proposed activities related to continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities.

During FY20 particular emphasis will be placed on:

- Disseminating current information about the reindustrialization program at the East Tennessee Technology Park, including the availability of property for beneficial reuse
- Continuing to improve public education through dissemination of current and information on ORRCA’s website
- Continuing to enhance public education about the quality of the natural environment in Oak Ridge and host counties through a coordinated communications program
- Continuing to educate local officials and other stakeholders from other DOE sites about ORR facilities and activities

D. The Grantee shall identify local concerns and issues relevant to the operation of the Oak Ridge Reservation and environs and present concerns to the State of Tennessee and the Department of Energy during the selection of annual work and budget priorities.

ORCCA will continue to engage with the State and DOE to improve understanding of local government and community concerns.

During FY20 ORCCA particular emphasis will be placed on:

- DOE's Strategic Plan for Mercury, including source reduction, treatment, storage and promotion of off-site disposal of mercury contaminated waste and soils
- Continued emphasis on reducing/mitigating/eliminating off-site impacts, particularly groundwater issues
- Modernization of water and wastewater infrastructure needed to support the ongoing DOE missions on the Oak Ridge Reservation
- Participation in site planning to complete the reindustrialization of ETTP
- Shipments to the WIPP facility in New Mexico and disposition of the majority of the U-233 inventory
- Expediting studies related to treatment and reduction of mercury
- Risk Communication, including signage and other public communications
- Environmental Management activities that will help facilitate and expedite interpretation of historic properties
- Transfer of excess/underutilized property for economic and community development
- Studies and mitigation pursuant to CERCLA's Natural Resources Damages Assessment

F. The Grantee shall prepare special studies and reports, as needed, to educate local officials and further public information.

During FY20 particular emphasis will be placed on:

- Review and assessment of projects related to the cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation and related offsite activities such as restoration of groundwater and fish
- Providing a local government mechanism for input into DOE's budgetary and programmatic priorities
- Continue to provide input into how financial performance bonds are assessed on companies which store and treat DOE waste
- Legislative, Regulatory, and Administrative activities at the Federal and State levels related to the storage, transportation and permanent disposal of nuclear waste

Approved June 24, 2019

Upcoming Meetings of Interest:

Implementation of the Manhattan Project

National Historical Park

Energy Communities Alliance Annual Peer Exchange

August 14-15, 2019

Oak Ridge, TN

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Annual Meeting

August 24, 2019

Location: TBA

DOE National Cleanup Workshop

Co-sponsored by Energy Communities Alliance

September 10-12, 2019

Location: Alexandria, VA

DOE Annual Intergovernmental Meeting

November 19-21, 2019

Location: Nashville, TN

2020 Waste Management Symposia

March 8-12, 2020

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Energy Communities Alliance Annual Meeting

Spring 2020

Location TBD

Safety Fest TN 2020

Sponsored by: Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership

April 27-May 1, 2020

Location: New Hope Center