

Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance
Annual Report for the Period
July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022

Key Activities in Support of the Scope of Services:

- (1) Members continued discussions with the State of Tennessee's grant management team to discuss the grant for FY22. In late September, TDEC was notified that the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Environmental Management Office (OREM) approved TDEC's Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) grant continuation application for budget period 7/01/2021 –6/30/2022. This application included \$94,547 for ORRCA FFA subaward that equals ORRCA funding under the ESOA. TDEC advised ORRCA's grant administrator to start planning for ORRCA budget/contract amendment. Due to travel and other restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, recommended budget modifications included shifting some funding among categories. These modifications were approved by the unanimous vote of members at ORRCA's November 1st and March 28th meetings. The in-person meetings were held at the TDEC office in Oak Ridge, was advertised in regional media and open to the public.
- (2) Members participated in planning for the DOE National Cleanup Workshop; the workshop was scheduled for September 7-10, but was postponed due to COVID; the in-person meeting was held December 7-10 in Alexandria, VA.
- (3) TDEC held a meeting on January 25th with the City of Oak Ridge grant staff, along with staff representatives from member jurisdictions, to review grant reimbursement requirements. The meeting was held at the TDEC office in Oak Ridge. Member jurisdictions are concerned that previously eligible expenses are no longer being approved. The issue continues to be a source of concern and has not yet been resolved. Member jurisdictions remain concerned that previously eligible expenses are no longer being approved. Staff from member jurisdictions will continue to work with TDEC and DOE to resolve the problems for FY23, but a resolution of the problem may require an amendment to the state's agreements with DOE. To illustrate the problem, **Members in this fiscal year were able to invoice only \$102,591.52 of the available \$189,094.00.** Member Grantees were unable to invoice all related ORR emergency planning time that had previously been accepted under the grant. As a result, participation in the grant has significantly reduced. Anderson and Morgan Counties, for instance, have been unable to invoice ORR emergency planning time due to changes in interpretation of eligibility. Morgan County was unable to invoice in FY22. Anderson County only invoiced their ECA membership and less

than \$50.00 of salary. The change in the interpretation of eligibility has led to a reduction of support of the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance's participation in Federal Facilities Agreement and Environmental Surveillance Oversight Agreement eligible activities.

- (4) Several members participated in the Waste Management 22 Symposia held during March in Phoenix.
- (5) Members reviewed the President's proposed budget for FY2023, which contains funding for Oak Ridge DOE programs. Members continued to track DOE's proposed budget for FY2022, as members had been concerned that the proposed budget for Oak Ridge EM was \$83 Million less than the enacted FY21 budget.
- (6) Several members traveled to Carlsbad, NM to participate in a meeting and tour of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Some of the inventory of DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation transuranic waste (TRU) has been shipped to the site for disposal. A significant volume, particularly remote handled TRU waste, is slated for shipment throughout the remainder of this decade.
- (7) Member staff participated in a meeting held in Oak Ridge of the National Conference of State Legislatures' working group that engages state elected officials on DOE environmental management issues. A briefing on ORRCA was included in staff's presentation to the group.
- (8) Members reviewed DOE and TEMA proposed public documents and revised sector maps for emergency response exercises.
- (9) Due to scheduling conflicts, the Q4 meeting of ORRCA was held on July 20, 2022 at the TDEC office in Oak Ridge. The meeting was advertised and open to the public. At the meeting, Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson. Mike Koentop attended the meeting on behalf of Roger Petrie; Mr. Petrie is replacing David Adler, who retired from DOE.
- (10) Members prepared all four quarterly grant reports, as well as financial statements, and submitted to TDEC in support of the ORRCA scope as described in ORRCA's approved work plans and the Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement.
- (11) Staff from member jurisdictions continued to meet to collaborate on public education and outreach activities. The vendor selected for the public

education and outreach project completed much of the video work, incorporating feedback from ORRCA members, prepared the communications and marketing plans. The vendor selected for the public education and outreach project attended the November 1 meeting and presented an update and the project videos. Members made positive comments and encouraged the staff members from the ORRCA jurisdictions to proceed with the balance of the project scope. The vendor selected for the public education and outreach project completed the project videos, and an update was presented at the March 28th meeting. The vendor selected for the public education and outreach project completed the project work, and an update was presented at the most recent ORRCA meeting.

- (12) DOE issued the draft Record of Decision for the proposed Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) in mid-July. ORRCA members began reviewing the draft; technical support for the review is being provided by the City's consultant. The City's technical consultant reviewed the draft and prepared a report that analyzed responses to issues raised at DOE's official public hearing. A number of recommendations were included in the report, including the need for ongoing public input, transparency, and field demonstration studies to obtain additional groundwater data. Copies of the report were provided to ORRCA members, TDEC, and DOE officials.
- (13) ORRCA members participated in detailed planning for DOE's annual Intergovernmental Meeting, which was scheduled for November 16-18 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Nashville. A determination was made that an in-person meeting was not feasible. The National Governor's Association, in conjunction with other groups including the Energy Communities Alliance, State and Tribal Working Group, and several other federal and state organizations, held virtual briefings by DOE EM. There was discussion that an in-person would be held in Spring 2022, but a determination was made to wait until Fall 2022. ORRCA members continued to participate in preliminary planning for DOE's annual Intergovernmental Meeting, which has been re-scheduled for November 29-December 2022 in New Orleans. ORRCA members continued to participate in preliminary planning for the meeting.
- (14) Members continued to monitor finals plans for the remainder of K-25 interpretation pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. The Oak Ridge City Council adopted the revised Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that finalizes the commitments at their June business meeting; DOE finalized the

MOA in August 2021.

- (15) Members continued to monitor activities related to the Manhattan Project National Historical Park; an ECA meeting was tentatively planned for 2022 but moved to mid-2023. The NPS Superintendent and her staff two virtual meetings for members; however, she is leaving the NPS for another position and an interim Superintendent has been appointed.
- (16) Members participated in meetings and planning for the proposed Oak Ridge Airport to be located at the East Tennessee Technology Park.
- (17) Members participated in several online seminar meetings with DOE, Energy Communities, and other intergovernmental groups on topics that may impact DOE's programs in Oak Ridge.
- (18) Members reviewed progress and issues related to the State's monitoring of DOE activities, including environmental sampling and progress toward resolving disputes and achieving Federal Facilities Agreement milestones.
- (19) Member jurisdictions continued to monitor DOE's proposed interpretation of the high-level radioactive waste definition. This issue could have implications for waste disposal across the DOE complex.
- (20) Members participated emergency response planning activities related to the Oak Ridge Reservation, including work toward updating disaster recovery plans and annual emergency response exercise.
- (21) Several members participated in meeting planning for an ECA conference on reindustrialization and nuclear-related project scheduled for Salt Lake City in August.