

**Work Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)
Environmental Surveillance and Oversight Agreement (ESOA)
FY26 (July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026)**

Introduction:

The Environmental Surveillance Oversight Agreement (ESOA) is designed to assure the citizens of the State of Tennessee that the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment. Through a program of independent environmental surveillance oversight and monitoring, the State of Tennessee (State) will advise and assess DOE's environmental surveillance program, working collaboratively with the Office of Science, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and DOE Environmental Management.

In implementation of ESOA, the State will cooperate and coordinate with DOE, other federal agencies, and local governments. The State is committed to maintaining a direct and open relationship with local governments including the city and county governments and local government organizations such as the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA). The State will administer as sub-grant to Anderson County Government to support local governments participation in ORRCA under the Tennessee Oversight Interlocal Agreement (TOIA).

For the purposes of this work plan, the term DOE shall include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Scope of Services:

1. The Grantee shall support implementation of the Environmental Surveillance Oversight Interlocal Agreement (ESOIA)

The ESOIA 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 in to help assure the citizens of the affected local government that the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) activities are being performed in a manner that is protective of their health, safety, and environment. For the purposes of this work plan, the term DOE shall include the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

ORRCA serves as a key interface for ongoing collaboration on clean up, reuse, and planning and response issues. ORRCA collaborates among regional local governments to promote a better understanding of the continued operations of the ORR facilities.

The State's annual environmental monitoring reports, along with the DOE Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP), and the Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) will serve as guiding documents.

During FY26, emphasis will be placed on better aligning local government collaboration in the DOE/State program.

2. The Grantee shall promote local government involvement and public awareness in the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities

ORCCA will continue to collaborate among the regional local governments to promote better understanding of the continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities. Participation with DOE, EPA, and TDEC 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 FY26 emphasis will be placed on:

- Enhancing communication with DOE, EPA, and TDEC regarding local priorities and concerns related to Environmental Monitoring Priorities and Budgets
- Improving local government as well as community understanding of how environmental monitoring is conducted on the ORR
- Engaging in assessment and review, and relaying information to the public regarding the evaluation of activities related to the National Historic Preservation Act and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- Work with NNSA and DOE entities to facilitate public meetings and engage the public, as well as coordinate a local delegation trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss ongoing operations at facilities located on the Oak Ridge Reservation.

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

During FY26 emphasis will be placed on:

- Continuing to improve public education through dissemination of current 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 focusing on the Oak Ridge Corridor
- Continuing to educate local officials and other stakeholders from other DOE sites about ORR facilities and activities
- Exploring new methodologies for public outreach
- Beginning direct engagement with local school systems
- Changing meeting locations to reach new sectors of the public and provide interactive engagement

4. 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 FY26 emphasis will be placed on:

- Modernization of water and wastewater infrastructure needed to support the ongoing DOE missions on the Oak Ridge Reservation
- Participation in site planning to promote the ongoing reindustrialization of ETTP
- Transfer of excess/underutilized property for economic and community development

5. The Grantee shall prepare special studies and reports, as needed, to educate local officials, further public information, and facilitate transfer of excess property.

During FY26 emphasis will be placed on:

- Review and assessment of monitoring and surveillance programs for all applicable media (i.e., air, surface water, soil, sediments, groundwater, precipitation, food crops, fish and wildlife, and biological systems)
- Providing a local government mechanism for input into DOE's budgetary and programmatic priorities
- Reviewing and communicating to the public information regarding the ORRCA's assessment of Department of Energy/Office of Science permits
- Facilitating transfer of excess properties, including necessary studies and planning
- Researching and implementing new outreach technologies

6. Federal, State, Local Government and Public Interaction

ORCCA serves as a key interface for ongoing collaboration on reuse, and planning and environmental response issues. ORRCA collaborates among regional local governments to promote a better understanding of the continued operations of the ORR facilities.

In implementation of ESOA, ORRCA members will cooperate and coordinate with TDEC, DOE, other federal and state agencies, and other local governments. Activities will involve coordination with DOE and the public on both a local and national level, as well as participation in organizations such as the Energy Communities Alliance.

7. After-Emergency Environmental Response Actions

ORRCA may support TDEC Division of Remediation-Oak Ridge personnel in disseminating public health advisories pertaining to East Fork Poplar Creek and other area reservoirs/rivers.

8. Training

ORRCA members' staff will maintain the necessary programs, equipment, training, and procedures to support ESOA activities in a safe manner.

ORRCA will manage an intern program to further educate local officials and the public, as well as participate in preparing special studies and reports.

9. Meetings of Interest:

- a. Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Annual Meeting – August 13, 2025 at 6 p.m.
- b. Manhattan Project National Historical Park Cities' Meeting - TBD
- c. DOE Intergovernmental Meeting - TBD
- d. ECA New Nuclear Initiative Forum—TBD