

**Work Plan for the Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA) Federal Facility Agreement (FFA)
FY26 (July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026)**

Introduction:

In December 2017, the DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) executed a five-year (5 year) 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.”

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 Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA)

At the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) annual Intergovernmental Meeting held in November 2018, 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 matters.

As this collaborative effort continues during FY25, ORRCA will serve as liaison to TDEC for the purposes of responding to local governments’ and community’s concerns, specific to FFA and Environmental Management activities.

The FY25 TDEC Work Plan and the FY 2024 – 2025 Federal Facility Agreement Milestones Appendix E will serve as a guide for ORRCA specific engagement in support of disseminating information pertaining to environmental management clean-up scope and deadlines.

2. The Grantee shall promote local government involvement and public awareness, and community engagement in the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) environmental restoration process.

ORCCA will continue to collaborate among the regional local governments to promote better understanding of the cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities, including the environmental management program. 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:

- Engagement on the balance of East Tennessee Technology Park cleanup

- 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.
 - Public education and outreach to dispel negative environmental perceptions about Oak Ridge, and to communicate opportunities for reindustrialization, workforce and economic development, and recreation in the Oak Ridge Corridor
 - 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 disposal, particularly related to mercury-contaminated materials.
 - Improving local officials' and the public's understanding of DOE's policy of integrating NEPA values into CERCLA, and associated costs/benefits
 - Enhancing communication with DOE, EPA, and TDEC regarding local priorities and concerns related to Environmental Management Projects, Priorities and Budgets
 - Improving understanding of Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) process and milestones
 - Engaging in Environmental Management activities related to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- 3. The Grantee shall disseminate accurate and information concerning present or proposed activities related to continued operations of the Oak Ridge Reservation facilities.**

During FY26 emphasis will be placed on:

- Disseminating current and accurate 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 accurate 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 communication program
 - Continuing to educate local officials and other stakeholders from other DOE sites about environmental management of ORR facilities and activities, including participation in the Energy Communities Alliance
- 4. The Grantee shall identify local concerns and issues relevant to the environmental management 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, ORCCA emphasis will be placed on:

- CERCLA's Natural Resources Damages Assessment study for the ORR
- 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 disseminating information regarding off-site impacts, particularly groundwater issues
 - Continued emphasis on costs/benefits of on-site versus off-site disposal
 - Modernization of water and wastewater infrastructure needed to support the ongoing DOE missions on the Oak Ridge Reservation
 - Participation in the ongoing reindustrialization of ETTP
 - Schedule for shipments to the WIPP facility in New Mexico
 - 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
- 5. The Grantee shall prepare special studies and reports, as needed, to educate local officials and further public information.**

During FY26, emphasis will be placed on:

- Conducting a systematic review of the City of Oak Ridge's Zoning Ordinance and the application of nuclear industrial zoning to former DOE real property
- Review and assessment of projects related to the cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation and related off-site 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
- Begin direct engagement with local school systems to educate about the field of environmental management

6. Training

ORRCA members' personnel are required to complete state specific training annually to familiarize themselves with CERCLA and the ORR-wide cleanup efforts as well as certifications to perform their work. Staff will pursue professional and technical training as needed to maintain the skills and knowledge required to fulfill the responsibilities of the ORRCA work plan.

7. Meetings of Interest:

- a. ECA New Nuclear Initiative Forum—2026 Date/Location TBD
- b. Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board Annual Meeting— August 13, 2025 at 6 p.m.
- c. Manhattan Project National Historical Park Cities' Meeting – TBD
- d. National Cleanup Workshop 2025 - September 23-25, 2025, in Arlington, VA
- e. DOE Intergovernmental Meeting---TBD
- f. Waste Management Symposia (WMS) - March 8-12, 2026 in Phoenix, AZ
- g. National Governors Association - TBD