

Oak Ridge Reservation Communities Alliance (ORRCA)

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Online Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank, Roane County Executive Wade Creswell, Oak Ridge Councilwoman Ellen Smith (proxy for Mayor Gooch)

Others Present: Llean Tupper, Kristof Czartoryski, Suzanne Sawusch, and Doug Colclasure

Mayor Frank called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Executive Creswell made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025, meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion and Approval of FY26 FFA and ESOA Work Plans

- 1) Motion made by Executive Creswell made a motion, second by Councilwoman Smith, to approve the FFA and ESOA FY2026 Work Plans as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Other Business – Suzanne Sawusch noted that TDEC needs an estimate of FY25 expenses for the FFA and ESOA grants by Friday, June 27th. Llean is awaiting the receipt of grant-related expenses from the municipalities and will submit the estimated expenses by the EOB on June 27th.

Public Comments: Due to lack of computer audio, Doug Colclasure (Greenways Oak Ridge) submitted his comments via email after the meeting (see attached).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

**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

**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