



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

May 15, 2001

Mr. Rod Nelson
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
P. O. Box 2001, EM-90
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Comments on the "Oak Ridge Reservation Stewardship Management Plan"

Dear Mr. Nelson:

At our May 9, 2001 meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the attached comments on the ~~A~~Oak Ridge Reservation Stewardship Management Plan~~@~~annotated outline. The outline was developed by the Department of Energy with input from the Stewardship Committee and was provided to that committee for review and comment.

The committee identified the key areas that require attention in the near term while developing the Oak Ridge Reservation Stewardship Management Plan. Issues have been organized by the elements proposed in the current outline. This list is not meant to incorporate every possible issue under each element but to identify the issues that are most important to stakeholders in the near term and require investigation and evaluation for inclusion in the first full draft of the plan.

For each activity, a summary of past stakeholder recommendations is also noted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luther V. Gibson, Jr.".

Luther V. Gibson, Jr.
Chair

Attachment

Cc: Pat Halsey, DOE/ORO
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4
John Owsley, TDEC
Ralph Skinner, DOE/ORO

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNOTATED OUTLINE, DATED 4/17/01

The Stewardship Committee of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board has identified the key areas that require attention in the near term while developing the ORR Stewardship Management Plan (SMP). Issues have been organized by the elements proposed in the current SMP outline. This list is not meant to incorporate every possible issue under each element but to identify the issues that are most important to stakeholders in the near term and require investigation and evaluation for inclusion in the first full draft of the plan.

For each activity, a summary of past stakeholder recommendations is also noted.

1.0 Ensure the necessary legal authority exists for performing all stewardship activities

- Provide a clear and detailed DOE statement of commitment to stewardship.
- Clearly identify all of the parties with interests in long-term stewardship activities.
- Clearly identify all existing statutory and/or regulatory authority granted to these parties.
- Evaluate the degree to which existing authority structures adequately address all foreseeable long-term stewardship requirements and identify possible actions to address any requirements that are not currently covered.
- Clearly identify all recourse for stakeholders/members of the public to take action in the event of stewardship failure or if protectiveness of health and environment is diminished below the Remedial Action Objectives.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE identify all stewards.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE acknowledge and accept its responsibility as principal steward of the ORR; Oak Ridge City Council establish any additional land use categories required for land used for long-term hazardous waste disposal; state add long-term waste disposal and residual waste categories to the list of required "Notices to Buyers."

2.0 Provide sustainable funding for stewardship activities.

- Identify each stewardship activity that will require sustainable long-term funding.
- Define the estimated duration of each stewardship activity for which a funding requirement exists.
- Estimate likely funding needs for specific activities.
- Recognize need for better forms of funding for sustainable stewardship and identify potential strategies for obtaining sustainable funding (provide a reference to the Resources for the Future report and the funding mechanism for EMWMF).

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE explore mechanisms to reduce or remove the dependence on annual appropriations for stewardship.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE establish an annual budget for stewardship; until other means become available, request stewardship funding as a line item in annual appropriations; Congressional fund for stewardship.

3.0 Define roles and responsibilities for stewardship activities.

- Based on the parties with interests established in objective 1.0 and the scope and duration of stewardship activities determined in objective 2.0, broadly define current roles and responsibilities.
- Identify the needed configuration of roles and responsibilities at the time when remediation is complete. Identify which entities are best suited to fulfill each role.
- Develop transition plans that move the current organization of stewardship roles and responsibilities to the preferred future organization of stewardship roles and responsibilities.
- Identify performance measures for current stewardship responsibilities.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE work cooperatively with all stewards to identify their roles and responsibilities and incorporate them into the SMP.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE identify all stewards required to implement stewardship; ensure that all potential stewards accept responsibility for their portions of stewardship; initiate a stewardship coordinating committee by December 1999; Oak Ridge City council assign responsibility for City oversight to the Environmental Quality Advisory board or similar group.

4.0 Perform operations, inspection, surveillance, and maintenance functions for the engineering and institutional controls selected as part of the remedy.

- Identify the list of most likely engineering and institutional controls that will be used for stewardship on the ORR. Develop a table that lists these controls and identifies key elements of each one to include: description, life span, records needs, maintenance needs, monitoring needs, stewards, and other key information.
- Identify all remediation activities on the ORR and their associated stewardship requirements (both confirmed and projected).
- Include a clear statement of need for future planning and integration of stewardship activities once all remediation decisions are complete, and include recognition that the SMP is a living plan.
- Identify a system for triggering action and the associated contingency plans required when monitoring results are outside of the acceptable limits.
- As soon as feasible, evaluate the common tasks to determine the most efficient management system (centralized, on-site or hybrid organizational structure).
- As soon as feasible, integrate the common tasks into a transition plan to the preferred future.

Previous Committee Recommendations: provided detailed comments on draft stewardship management plan including proposal for a table that will outline and describe key stewardship activities.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: identified detailed description of activities needed at ORR organized by the responsible stewards.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: identified detailed description of generic stewardship activities.

5.0 Maintain information management systems.

Develop a comprehensive approach to information management that will identify what information is needed, how the information will be captured, how the information will be organized, how the information will be preserved and how the information will be made available.

- Identify the key information that will be required for effective stewardship and the processes that are now used for managing this information.
- Evaluate the degree to which these existing management information processes can be effectively used for stewardship information.
- Formulate action plans to overcome any identified information management deficiencies.
- Develop clear procedures for identification of the location, amount, and concentration of all residual contamination, all controls that are put in place and estimates of remaining risk. Identify how this information is to be recorded and made available for future generations.
- Identify the information documents that will be needed by future generations for effective understanding of remediation and stewardship. Tag this information and documents in the administrative record.
- Develop procedures to assure that relevant information is flexibly maintained in up to date media/format and redundant multiple locations.
- Work with local governments to use civil property records to preserve stewardship information.
- Once procedures are identified, develop a test case to show how stewardship information needs should be addressed.
- Create a system to ensure the quality of stewardship information.
- Develop procedures to monitor the long-term performance of remedies and manage the gradual degradation of physical systems.
- Establish procedures for the evaluation and implementation of new technology.

Previous Committee Recommendations: May 2000 recommendation to conduct pilot study incorporating stewardship needs into city's geographical information system and records management systems.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE collect, preserve, and integrate all information needed for long-term stewardship; incorporate stewardship activities into a management and tracking system; institute effective procedures for filing and registering contaminated land notices; and provide accurate information describing contaminated land for other government information systems.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE establish a stewardship information system.

6.0 Perform research to reduce the costs and risks associated with stewardship and to identify more effective ways of managing residual hazards.

Elaborate on research needs and ensure that generic research objectives are included in this version of the SMP, to include:

- Identify requirements to re-characterize sites to determine the as-remediated risk to human health and the environment.
- Develop a prioritized ranking for research based on the as-remediated risks.
- Identify the need to obtain sustainable funding for stewardship research.
- Identify the need to develop a GIS system for web use that describes the reservation: contamination, risk, remediation, stewardship, etc, and explore integration with state county city systems.
- Identify the need for research to feed back to activities to maintain goals or change them if discoveries indicate the needs for change.
- Develop procedures to check the validity of original assumptions and models as monitoring results are obtained over time.
- Identify procedures for continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of stewardship technology and operations to provide for continuous improvement of stewardship.
- Enforce the need to design remedies so as to facilitate the monitoring of performance vs. design parameters.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE implement a stewardship research program designed to understand the ecological and social impacts of waste management and to devise new and improved long-term remediation methods.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE establish a stewardship research program that contributes to better assessments of the exposure and risks of contamination, remedial technologies, and stewardship requirements.

7.0 Ensure appropriate public involvement in all stewardship activities.

- Develop strategies to effect broader public involvement.
- Provide for a citizens board for stewardship. Identify procedures for membership, responsibilities, initiation, and anything else appropriate at this time. Recognize current role of ORSSAB Stewardship Committee transition from the committee to a formal board at future date.

Previous Committee Recommendations: July 2000 recommendation to ensure public involvement in five year reviews and in the preparation of LUCAP and LUCIP documents.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE establish a Citizens Board for Stewardship; include public in the five year review process.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended transition team until Citizens Board for Stewardship could be established..

8.0 Educate the stakeholders on stewardship activities, needs, and basis.

- Clearly demonstrate why stewardship is important to the Oak Ridge community and its diverse stakeholders.
- Identify the appropriate methodologies to educate the wide variety of stakeholders who will need to understand stewardship issues.
- Incorporate education into appropriate public involvement plans.
- Identify the scope of needed programs, courses , workshops, and materials that accurately describe the reservation, the location and type of contamination and its associate risk, and current and future stewardship activities to contain/control contamination.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE establish systems to inform and educate the public.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: identified the importance of creating an informed public for the long-term viability of stewardship.

9.0 Document stewardship decisions and activities.

- Identify which documents relating to stewardship contain elements that are legally enforceable.
- Establish documentation process for stewardship decisions and activities that includes provisions for routine review by an independent and objective reviewer.
- Integrate documentation processes into the transition plan to the preferred future.
- Identify the need to include stewardship decisions/activities in CERCLA decision documents.
- Develop a system for reporting key stewardship activities.

Previous Committee Recommendations: March 2001 recommendations providing detailed proposal for incorporation of stewardship recommendations into CERCLA records of decision. July 2000 recommendations to include stewardship requirements in CERCLA documents.

December 1999 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE include stewardship requirements in all interim and final CERLA Records of Decision; establish FFA milestones for key stewardship activities; include public participation in five year reviews as part of FFA and the DOE Public Involvement Plan.

July 1998 Stakeholder Report: recommended that DOE develop a stewardship plan by December 1999; make stewardship requirements an integral part of all CERCLA decision documents.