



Many Voices Working for the Community

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

August 22, 2006

Mr. Steve McCracken
Assistant Manager for Environmental Management
DOE-Oak Ridge Operations
P.O. Box 2001, EM-90
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. McCracken:

Comments 149 on the Oak Ridge Environmental Information System

At our August 12, 2006, meeting, the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board approved the enclosed comments.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhonda Bogard" with the initials "RB/rsg" written below it.

Rhonda Bogard, Vice-chair
RB/rsg

Enclosure

cc/enc: Dave Adler, DOE-ORO
Doug Frost, DOE-HQ
Pat Halsey, DOE-ORO
Connie Jones, EPA Region 4
Rex Lynch, Anderson County Mayor
James O'Connor, Oak Ridge City Manager
Melissa Nielson, DOE-HQ
John Owsley, TDEC
Ken Yager, Roane County Mayor



Comments 149

Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

Comments on the Fact Sheet for the

Oak Ridge Environmental Information System

Background

The Oak Ridge Environmental Information System (OREIS) contains environmental data for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). OREIS also includes geographic data for the ORR, including the locations of roads, buildings, streams, and sampling locations. It offers a source of compliance and surveillance data, as well as environmental data to support environmental restoration decisions.

OREIS is a centralized, standardized, quality assured, and configuration-controlled environmental data management system. The basic mission of OREIS is efficient retrievability and long-term retention of ORR environmental data.

OREIS fulfills the environmental information management obligations of the Department of Energy-Oak Ridge Office under the Federal Facility Agreement to satisfy the cleanup requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Types of measurements data in OREIS include chemical, biological, ecological, radiological, geophysical, and lithological. In addition to field measurement readings, results of laboratory analyses performed on environmental media are in OREIS. Environmental media include groundwater, surface water, sediment, soil, air, plants, and animals.

OREIS has data from various environmental sampling activities across the ORR dating to 1950. There are currently over 13 million field measurement results and analytical results in OREIS.

Discussion

Prior to September 11, 2001, OREIS was publicly accessible for anyone wishing to find environmental information on the ORR. However, after the events of September 11, 2001, public access was suspended for security reasons.

During the last few months, Teresa James, Environmental Information Systems Manager, for Bechtel Jacobs, Co., has worked to reinstate OREIS for public use. Ms. James attended the June 2006 meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) Stewardship Committee meeting to report that OREIS was once again available to public use. At the meeting she distributed a fact sheet explaining what was in the system and how it can be accessed (Attachment 1).

Comments

ORSSAB appreciates the efforts undertaken to reinstate OREIS. The Board and the Stewardship Committee thank Ms. James for preparing and presenting the fact sheet for review. It is a very useful tool in familiarizing users with the system.

The Stewardship Committee and ORSSAB offer the following comments on the fact sheet:

1. What are the system requirements for users? What computer capabilities are required to access and use the system?

2. Are there other methods of accessing the data if a user does not have a personal computer or Internet access?
3. Include a phone number in addition to the email address to open an account.
4. What are the requirements to set up an account?
5. What restrictions apply in setting up an account?

We believe incorporating the preceding information into the fact sheet will make it even more useful for potential users of OREIS.