



Department of Energy

Oak Ridge Office
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

September 26, 2006

Ms. Rhonda Bogard, Vice Chair
Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board
Post Office Box 2001
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

Dear Ms. Bogard:

COMMENTS 149 ON THE OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

Thank you for your helpful comments on the Oak Ridge Environmental Information System (OREIS) Fact Sheet. Hopefully, you will find that your comments have been incorporated adequately. The revised Fact Sheet is enclosed.

Additionally, we are establishing a "link" to OREIS from the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Office public web site which should provide easier access to persons with computers and also to persons utilizing computers at the Information Center and/or public libraries. The access requirements will be the same as those discussed in the fact sheet and easily obtained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. McCracken".

Stephen H. McCracken
Assistant Manager for
Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:
David Adler, EM-911
Pat Halsey, EM-911
Teresa James, BJC, Bldg. K-1330, MS-7053

Oak Ridge Environmental Information System Fact Sheet

The Oak Ridge Environmental Information System (OREIS) computer application is once again available to the public. Public access was suspended due to Department of Energy (DOE) security concerns following September 11, 2001.

OVERVIEW: This fact sheet contains, a description of the types of data in the OREIS; information about accessing the OREIS application; and a discussion of the OREIS Mission, including an excerpt from the OREIS Charter.

I. DATA IN OREIS

OREIS contains environmental and geographic data for the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). It offers a reliable source of compliance and surveillance data, as well as environmental data to support environmental restoration decisions. OREIS also includes geographic data for the ORR including the locations of roads, buildings, streams, and sampling locations. The geographic data allow measurements data to be presented in a geographic context.

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

OREIS contains extensive descriptive and qualifier information to help document data quality and to enable end users to analyze the appropriateness of the data for secondary uses. For example, if an organization is tasked with sampling an area for a specific chemical, they can look in OREIS to see if that area has already been sampled and may be able to re-use that data instead of sampling again.

OREIS includes both validated and invalidated data as determined by the originating organization. To ensure that the quality of the data is known, OREIS flags the data validation status.

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

II. ACCESSING OREIS

Extensive documentation is available via the web site, including a user guide, a spatial query tool guide, and data dictionary information. A frequently asked

questions area and contact information for user help are also available via the web site. Training on the use of the system can be scheduled based on user requests and the training content can be geared towards the user's specific needs.

Within the OREIS user interface available on the OREIS home page, a user may select a data set; view, print and download reports about the data; and preview and download data. The primary avenue for accessing OREIS data is the OREIS Spatial Query Tool (SQT). There is also a Remediation Effectiveness Report (RER) SQT which contains a subset of the OREIS data and only has data from the sampling locations included in the annual RER. The SQT has the following system requirements.

1. One of the following internet browsers:

Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher

Netscape 6.0 or higher

Mozilla Firefox 1.5 or higher
2. The option within the browser for Java Scripting (JIT Compiler) must be "Enabled"
3. The option within the browser for Popup Blockers must be "Disabled" or turned off.
4. It is recommended your Monitor Resolution be set to 1024x768.

Any computer with internet access can access OREIS through any browser. A Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC (BJC) Universal Computer Access Management System (UCAMS) account or an OREIS individual account is required to access the OREIS web application. All OREIS users have read access to all the data in OREIS.

The URL is <http://www-oreis.bechteljacobs.org/oreis/help/oreishome.html>.

- If you currently have an OREIS individual account, click on the link of interest and enter your account username and password.
- If you currently have a BJC UCAMS account, click on the link of interest and enter bjcoakridge/your userid and your UCAMS password.

- If you do not have an OREIS account, send an e-mail request to Teresa James at jamestl@bechteljacobs.org or at (865) 576-2057. Please include your name, an e-mail address and/or phone number, and any regulator or subcontractor affiliations you may have.

If you work for a regulatory agency, one of the ORR prime subcontractors, or a subcontractor working for one of the regulatory agencies or prime contractors, your request will be granted by Teresa James. If not, Teresa will send the request to DOE for approval. This additional step is to ensure that DOE is aware of all external requests for data. It is the intention of DOE to approve all requests.

If you do not have internet access, you may call the phone number above, and ask for a specific dataset which can be sent as a hard copy report. Small requests can be managed in this way, but larger requests are not feasible to produce as hard copy reports.

III. OREIS USER COMMUNITY

Users may join the OREIS user group by sending an e-mail to BJC-OREIS@bechteljacobs.org. The OREIS User's Community Network exists as a mechanism to allow OREIS staff the ability to alert users on significant database issues, and to provide the user community a forum in which to communicate OREIS issues among themselves and provide feedback to the OREIS staff. Such issues include scheduled down times, proposed changes to the database, and lessons learned.

An annual user group meeting includes a review of the previous year's changes and a presentation on a topic of interest. The user group meeting provides users an opportunity to suggest changes, discuss issues with other users, and to ask OREIS staff questions.

IV. OREIS MISSION

OREIS fulfills the environmental information management obligations of the DOE Oak Ridge Operations (ORO) under the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) for the ORR initiated in January 1991 to satisfy the cleanup requirements under Section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and Sections 3008(h) and 6001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

Given the advantages and cost-effectiveness of computer technology for managing massive amounts of data, the parties to the FFA chose to automate

the centralized storage and retrieval of environmental data. OREIS is the DOE generated result to that FFA commitment.

OREIS operates under a 1994 DOE ORO approved charter.

OREIS is a centralized, standardized, quality-assured, and configuration-controlled environmental data management system. It is comprised of hardware, commercial software, customized integration software, the OREIS Environmental Measurements Data Base, the OREIS Geographic Data Base, and documentation. The basic mission of OREIS is efficient retrievability and long-term retention of ORO environmental data. Its primary users include DOE and its contractors and subcontractors who perform environmental restoration, compliance, and surveillance activities. Other primary users include the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

The objectives of OREIS are to maintain data that are complete, consistent, and fully qualified as to their usability; to provide ease of accessibility of environmental data that support environmental planning, analysis, and decision making; to facilitate the efficient access, reporting, analysis, display, mapping, import, and export of data; to minimize the uncertainties associated with data, data products, and interpretation of results by strictly controlling data input, revision, and storage; to ensure that supporting information is available for establishing the legal defensibility of the data and data products; and to minimize duplicative costs to DOE for data collection, management, analysis, and reporting as contractor and subcontractor changes occur.