

APPENDIX G

**PRIORITIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
APPENDIX E MILESTONES FOR
THE OAK RIDGE RESERVATION**

Federal Facilities Agreement - Appendix G

Prioritization of Environmental Restoration Appendix E Milestones for the Oak Ridge Reservation

Introduction

The prioritization of all projects to be funded by the Environmental Management Program is performed to allocate resources. The prioritization of projects and subsequent scheduling provides information necessary to plan the Appendix E milestones. The objective of the prioritization process is to optimize the order of projects that will facilitate completion of the cleanup program on the reservation. Following is a more detailed description of the prioritization approach used by the DOE EM program and the interface activities with the Parties to the FFA.

Approach

The overall strategy for prioritizing activities on the reservation has been in place since the early days of the environmental restoration program. This strategy prioritizes activities to control imminent risks first. Control of offsite releases is the next highest priority.

The current prioritization approach is based on the conclusion that all current imminent risks are controlled through early actions or institutional controls. The program has moved into an accelerated phase to remediate sources and residual contamination. The objective of this accelerated phase is to prioritize completion of the highest risk projects and to complete projects that will reduce the long term mortgage and free up funds for completion of the cleanup program as quickly as possible.

Process

The entire environmental management program is evaluated and prioritized annually.

The overall approach for prioritizing is risk-based and focuses first on those contaminant sources that are the greatest contributors to risk. The overall strategy is based on surface water considerations, encompassing five distinct watersheds that feed the Clinch River and are impacted by the ORR DOE sites. While risk reduction is the major cleanup driver, other factors that must be considered to achieve risk reduction are execution logic and mortgage reduction. Execution logic is the recognition that some activities need to occur before others (a building must be demolished before underlying soils are cost-effectively removed); that upstream sources need to be controlled before downstream resources are restored; and that costs of maintenance need to be minimized. The reduction of mortgage costs provides a dramatic benefit due to the reinvestment of these saved funds into accelerated risk reduction and reduces the amount and duration of funding need to complete the cleanup program.

The project prioritization process is:

Proposed Appendix E milestones are identified and evaluated through collaboration of program/project managers, core teams, regulators, and baseline planning information. Each milestone will be evaluated based on adequate and up-to-date information. The results of the milestone evaluation process will be utilized to prioritize the ORR Environmental Management projects.

Also, each year as funding is allocated, the projects are re-sequenced at the funding level provided. The resultant schedule may provide the basis of a life cycle baseline update and revisions to FFA milestones. After scheduling the projects according to prioritization and the available funding, potential milestone modifications are presented to the FFA managers for consideration for modification to FFA Appendix E , pursuant to FFA modification procedures. If the Appendix E modifications are approved and updating the LCB is necessary, copies of the LCB 3-year FFA responsibility project schedules will be made available to the EPA and TDEC to assist in establishing the Appendix E milestones.

The requirements of Section XVIII. Scoping Work Priorities of the FFA will be used to establish Appendix E milestones.

Public Involvement

At least once a year, in preparation of DOE/ORO FY+2 budget request submittal, presentations are given to the public to discuss the prioritization process and the results. Opportunities are provided to comment on both. The primary focus of these meetings is on the prioritization of actions.

Throughout the year, DOE project personnel present the details of their projects to various public organizations. These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to question the scope and schedule of various actions. Additionally, before a final cleanup decision is made on any site, a public meeting is held to discuss the scope and cost of the proposed action. Through these series of meetings, the public is invited to provide input to the cleanup program.