

# CITY OF OAK RIDGE



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

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January 2, 2003

The Honorable Mayor  
and Members of City Council  
City of Oak Ridge  
P.O. Box 1  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0350

Re: **Environmental Quality Advisory Board  
(EQAB) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2002  
and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2003**

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

The Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) is pleased to submit (for your information) its annual report for the past fiscal year and (for your review and approval) its proposed work plan for the current fiscal year. The members of EQAB trust that you continue to find that EQAB is meeting its mission in serving the city by addressing the community's environmental issues on behalf of the citizens of Oak Ridge.

Should you have questions regarding the annual report, the work plan, or other matters related to EQAB's activities, please feel free to contact me at (423) 574-7396 (daytime) or 483-3068 (home).

Sincerely,  
For the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ellen D. Smith'.

Ellen D. Smith  
Chairperson

Enclosure: EQAB Annual Report for July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002  
EQAB Proposed Work Plan for July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003

cc: Paul C. Boyer, Jr., City Manager  
Amy Fitzgerald, Gov't and Public Affairs Coordinator

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2002  
July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002**

**1. GENERAL SUMMARY**

This report summarizes the principal activities of the City of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) during fiscal year 2002 covering the period beginning July 1, 2001 and ending June 30, 2002. EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2002. Meetings were generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Other meetings were scheduled as needed for committee meetings or to address particular issues of importance.

**1.1 MEMBERSHIP**

Members of EQAB during this past fiscal year (2001-2002) included the following individuals:

Ellen Smith, Chairperson  
Marty Cole, Vice-Chairperson  
Jimmy Groton, Secretary  
Charlie Burger (beginning March 2002)  
Ed Frome (through Summer 2002)  
Amir Gamliel (through December 2001)  
Ken Haerer  
Tyler Johnson  
Mike Maston  
Dionisia Trigo-Stockli  
Chuck Agle, Planning Commission Representative  
Kimberly Potts, Oak Ridge High School Representative (through May 2002)  
Elise Watson, Oak Ridge High School Representative (since June 2001)  
Ben Rogers, Oak Ridge High School Representative (through June 2002)

**1.2 High School Representatives**

In May 2002 Kimberly Potts completed her two-year appointed term and left the board when she graduated from Oak Ridge High School. Elise Watson is serving a two-year term that began in May 2001. In spring 2002 City Council elected Ben Rogers to a two-year term beginning at the end of May.

Throughout the year, Ms. Watson and Ms. Potts continued working successfully on environmental efforts that involved high school students and other members of the community. A noteworthy accomplishment was a successful effort to encourage the high school Student Council to establish a paper recycling program in ORHS classrooms beginning in the fall of 2002.

Ms. Potts and Ms. Watson also encouraged and organized student participation in community activities to recognize America Recycles Day in November 2002, including setting up a library display and conducting public awareness activities at the local Home Depot store. Other EQAB members also helped with America Recycles Day activities at Home Depot.

## **2. EQAB'S COMMITTEES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1 EQAB COMMITTEES**

Four standing committees previously established by EQAB remained active during this reporting period. These committees met periodically during the year, as needed to discuss important issues or consolidate document review responses. The committees and the chairperson for each:

Regulatory Oversight, Chair: Ellen Smith  
Resource Conservation and Management, Chair: Marty Cole  
Urban Design, Chair: Tyler Johnson  
Greenways and Open Space, Chair: Jimmy Groton

Three additional EQAB *ad hoc* committees continued to evaluate specific issues and remained active during the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

#### **2.1.1 Regulatory Oversight Committee**

The Regulatory Oversight Committee continued to provide timely input to City Council, City Staff, DOE, EPA, TDEC, and other agencies about issues related to environmental contamination in the community, as well as other initiatives that could affect environmental quality, both in the government and private sectors.

#### **2.1.2 Resource Conservation And Management**

The Resource Conservation and Management Committee continued its efforts to monitor activities in the community that could impact land, water, and energy resources. The committee promoted several specific measures to encourage the reuse of valuable resources, to prevent unnecessary generation of wastes, to stimulate recycling, and to encourage litter reduction in the City. For the third year the committee supported America Recycles Day (held November 15, 2001), a community educational event promoting use of items made from recycled materials. High school student volunteers and EQAB members participated in the event by staffing information sites at the BFI convenience center and at the local Kroger store. EQAB also supported the City's participation in the semiannual Hazardous Materials Pickup events.

#### **2.1.3 Urban Design Committee**

At the February 2002 EQAB meeting, three awardees were selected to receive Environmental Quality Awards: Friends of Haw Ridge for Environmental Stewardship, Melton Lake Greenway Phase III for Continuing Support, and UT-Battelle for Community Involvement (Rowing Tower).

#### **2.1.4 Greenbelts And Open Space Committee**

The Greenbelts and Open Space Committee continued to promote the preservation of open space, the protection of significant natural features, and the effective stewardship of greenbelts throughout the City. Special efforts this year included:

- continued support of Greenways Oak Ridge in its efforts to establish an interlinked network of trails and bike paths in the City,
- continued efforts to establish a Trails Volunteer Program in Oak Ridge greenbelts used as greenways, and
- began review of City ordinances related to greenbelts, greenways, and trail management.

### **2.1.5 EQAB Karst Committee**

The EQAB Karst Committee resumed activities after the Oak Ridge Planning Commission's Karst Committee's activities came to a close in the late summer/early fall of 1997. In fiscal year 2002 the EQAB committee continued to gather information about issues stemming from karst geology that could affect the safety and welfare of the community.

### **2.1.6 Steep Slopes Committee**

EQAB members met several times in FY 2002 with various members and committees of the Planning Commission and Community Development staff to discuss issues and solutions related to development on steep slopes. The final outcome of these meetings was a revised city policy for review and approval of site plans, especially preliminary grading plans, and a revised ordinance for development of steep slopes. This grew out of concerns and problems resulting from the development of Pine Ridge.

## **2.2 OTHER COMMITTEES**

Several EQAB members represented EQAB and the City through active participation on several boards, advisory groups, or local institutions engaged in activities of interest to EQAB. These external organizations included the following:

Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission: EQAB representative is Chuck Agle

Local Oversight Committee (LOC): EQAB's representative is Ellen Smith. Marty Cole served as alternate.

Greenways Oak Ridge: EQAB representative was Ken Haerer.

Anderson County Regional Solid Waste Management Board: Marty Cole represented EQAB.

Community Reuse Organization for East Tennessee: Jimmy Groton served as representative (in effect representing both EQAB and Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning).

DOE Stewardship Working Group: EQAB's representatives are Tyler Johnson and Ellen Smith.

Scarboro Community: Tyler Johnson, Marty Cole, and Ellen Smith continue tracking this group's activities for EQAB.

Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee: EQAB's representative was Ed Frome. Mr. Frome resigned from the Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee due to

concerns that the committee's overall direction would not lead to a meaningful discussion or resolution of the issues.

The board participated in a Work Session with City Council in August 2001.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS TO EQAB

The following is a list of presentations made by outside groups to EQAB during the past year (July 2001 through June 2002).

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Presenter(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
Planning for Sustainability—The Nexus Between Community, Economics, and Resource Protection	Scott Davis, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Chapter	September 6, 2001
East Tennessee Ozone Study	Will Pendergrass, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	October 4, 2001
Discussion regarding Pine Ridge Development Project	Nat Revis, Entrepreneur	December 6, 2001
Long-Term Stewardship and SMART (Stewardship Management Archival and Retrieval Tool)	Ralph Skinner, DOE--Oak Ridge Operations, Kris Cutshaw (Q Systems), and Judy Skinner (Q Systems)	January 3, 2002
Native Grass Restoration and Related Projects in the Freels Bend Area	Warren Webb, Oak Ridge National Laboratory	May 2, 2002

#### 4. TECHNICAL REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY EQAB

In all EQAB reviewed more than 81 communication items during fiscal year 2002. The following is a partial list of some of the major documents, decisions, or referral issue reviews conducted by EQAB during the past year.

Document/Issue	EQAB Action	Date
Parcel 412 Groundwater Remediation Project (Former Bulk Oil Facility)	Ongoing review of technical documents and support to City Staff	Ongoing
Parcel 412 Groundwater Remediation Project (Former Bulk Oil Facility)	EQAB memorandum to City Council: Recommendations for next steps in Parcel 412 Groundwater Remediation	August 7, 2001
DOE Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Disposition of Scrap Metals	EQAB letter to City Council with recommendations to expand the proposed scope of the EIS to include review of volumetrically-contaminated metals	August 15, 2001
A Citizens' Guide To Oak Ridge	EQAB provided technical comments on several draft versions of this document	Several times throughout FY 2002
Development on steep slopes	EQAB participated in joint meetings with the Oak Ridge Planning Commission	Several times throughout FY 2002
Draft Environmental Assessment for Proposed Transfer of American Museum of Science and Energy, Parcel G, and Parcel 279.01	EQAB memorandum to City Council with EQAB's comments about DOE's proposed project	March, 2002
Proposed Master Plan For Rarity Ridge Development	Memorandum to City Council with comments on proposed master plan	March 15 2002
Draft Addendum to Environmental Assessment for Proposed Lease of Parcel ED-1	EQAB memorandum to City Council with EQAB's comments about the proposed project	May, 2002
Steep Slope Development	EQAB recommendations to City Council and Planning Commission	May 9, 2002
Federal Industry and Research (FIR) District Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment	EQAB recommendations to City Council	May 14, 2002

#### 5. OTHER ISSUES

##### 5.1 ATTENDANCE

EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2002. Attendance at EQAB's regularly scheduled monthly meetings averaged 78%.

##### 5.2 DOE REPRESENTATIVE

As in previous years, DOE Oak Ridge Operations sent a designated representative to most EQAB meetings. The DOE representative during fiscal year 2002 was Mark Belvin. Mr. Belvin regularly attended the monthly EQAB meetings and provided an important avenue of communication between DOE and EQAB.

**City of Oak Ridge Environmental Quality Advisory Board**  
**Proposed Work Plan for 2002-2003**  
*(approved by EQAB on December 5, 2002, for transmittal to City Council)*

1. Monitor, support and encourage activities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of Tennessee, the Department of Energy, and other federal government agencies in resolving existing contamination problems and environmental safety concerns in the community. Make recommendations to City Council concerning appropriate City policy on matters related to long-term stewardship for legacy contamination.
2. Provide representation to advisory groups involved in resolving contamination problems and environmental safety concerns in the community. This includes the Oak Ridge Reservation Local Oversight Committee.
3. Support public awareness of and compliance with City ordinances designed to promote a high quality environment in the City.
4. Continue the Environmental Quality Award Program to recognize important contributions to the City's environment. A particular objective of the award program is to recognize development projects that are sensitive to preservation of the natural environment or enhance environmental quality in the built environment.
5. Encourage environmental awareness and participation among Oak Ridge youth and within the schools.
6. Encourage maintenance and expansion of parks, greenways, and other open space throughout the City. Evaluate and make recommendations concerning expansion, continued preservation, and effective stewardship of greenbelts.
7. Review environmental and regulatory issues associated with land owned by the City, or to be purchased, annexed, or otherwise transferred by the City, and provide advice to City Council, staff, or other boards and commissions.
8. Study and support measures that improve the environmental quality of all neighborhoods in Oak Ridge.
9. Evaluate and make recommendations on alternatives for encouraging and enhancing the preservation of Oak Ridge's historic resources.
10. Encourage recycling, waste reduction, and reuse of recycled materials through public information activities, recommendations on maintaining and enhancing the citywide recycling program, and related measures.

11. Continue supporting the Adopt-A-Street Program and other beautification activities and litter reduction measures in the City.
12. Fulfill EQAB's role as the City Tree Board. Promote and encourage the care, planting and preservation of trees, shrubs, and urban forest within the community.
13. Work with the City Council, Planning Commission, City staff, and other appropriate agencies on environmental aspects of community development, including zoning, stormwater management, and grading standards. Evaluate and recommend improvements to city processes to enhance orderly community development and avoid adverse environmental, aesthetic, and public safety impacts from unsound development practices.
14. Review environmental assessments, proposals for licenses and permits, and other environmental information for proposed facilities and expansion or modification of existing facilities that could have an impact on environmental quality in Oak Ridge. Communicate the findings of such reviews to City Council and staff, or to the other boards or commissions that requested EQAB assistance, as appropriate to the matter. Communicate findings to external entities, such as state and federal regulatory bodies, when directed by City Council.
15. Perform environmental reviews of industries as requested by City Council or City Manager.
16. Advise City Council on environmental matters brought to the attention of the Board by citizens.
17. Support the decision-making process on issues of environmental concern by reviewing relevant consultant reports submitted to the city.
18. Promote public understanding of environmental matters and Oak Ridge environmental conditions by sponsoring educational workshops, producing and distributing informational materials, and encouraging similar public education efforts undertaken by other groups.
19. Perform other related work as requested by the City Council or City Manager.