

CITY OF OAK RIDGE



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD

POST OFFICE BOX 1 • OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37831-0001

November 17, 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 2003
and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2004**

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 that reads "Ellen D. Smith".

Ellen D. Smith
Chairperson

Enclosure: EQAB Annual Report for July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003
EQAB Proposed Work Plan for July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

cc: Gary M. Cinder, Interim City Manager
Amy Fitzgerald, Gov't and Public Affairs Coordinator

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2003
July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003**

1. GENERAL SUMMARY

This report summarizes the principal activities of the City of Oak Ridge's Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) during fiscal year 2003 covering the period beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003. EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2003. 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 (2002-2003) included the following individuals:

Ellen Smith, Chairperson
Marty Cole, Vice-Chairperson (through June 2003)
Chuck Agle, Planning Commission Representative
Charlie Burger
Ed Frome (through Summer 2002)
Jimmy Groton
Ken Haerer
John Huotari (starting February 2003)
Tyler Johnson
Mike Maston
Al Skyberg (starting September 2002)
Dionisia Trigo-Stockli (through December 2002)
Elise Watson, Oak Ridge High School Representative (through May 2003)
Ben Rogers, Oak Ridge High School Representative (through May 2003)
Sara Sams, Oak Ridge High School Representative (one-year term)
Ann Huston, Oak Ridge High School Representative (two-year term)

1.2 High School Representatives

In May 2003 Elise Watson and Ben Rogers completed their terms and left the board when they graduated from Oak Ridge High School. In May 2003 City Council elected Sara Sams, a senior, to serve the remaining one year of a two-year term and Ann Huston, a junior, to serve a two-year term.

Throughout the year, Ms. Watson and Mr. Rogers 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.

The students 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 2002-2003 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 16, 2002), 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 an information site at the local Home Depot store.

EQAB also supported the City's participation in the semiannual Hazardous Materials Pickup events.

Committee Chairman Marty Cole secured a grant from the National Tree Trust to plant 1,000 tree and shrub seedlings on public lands in the City. The trees were planted in spring of 2003. About 400 trees were planted at the Oak Ridge High School, where tree-planting was accomplished with the help of many EQAB members, ORHS and Jefferson Middle School students, and other volunteers from the community. City and school system staff planted other trees near the Melton Lake Greenway, at Linden Elementary School, and on other city properties. Walmart contributed snacks and drinks for the volunteers who worked at ORHS. Volunteer

participants contributed some other materials. EQAB member Charlie Burger took care of the trees at his home until they could be planted.

2.1.3 Urban Design Committee

The Urban Design committee led the selection for three Environmental Quality Awards for 2002. The presentation was made at the Oak Ridge City Council Meeting of November 18, 2002. Awardees were: Friends of Haw Ridge for Environmental Stewardship, UT-Battelle Rowing Tower for Community Involvement, and the multiple participants on the Melton Valley Greenway – Phase III Project for Continuing Support.

The Urban Design committee also took a lead role in commenting on a proposed landscaping ordinance revision. Initial review of the proposed ordinance with the City of Oak Ridge Community Development Department and the Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission was completed in June 2003. Follow-on actions continue.

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.

2.1.5 EQAB Karst Committee (Ad Hoc)

In fiscal year 2003 EQAB continued to monitor environmental aspects of karst remediation in the Mona Lane area.

2.1.6 Steep Slopes

EQAB members met several times in FY 2003 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 is Charlie Burger.

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.

3. PRESENTATIONS TO EQAB

The following is a list of presentations made by outside groups to EQAB during the past year (July 2002 through June 2003).

Presentations to EQAB FY 2003

Presentation	Presenter(s)	Date
Oak Ridge Reservation Land-Use Planning Process.	Marianne Heiskell (DOE) and Pat Parr: UT Battelle (Oak Ridge National Laboratory):	August 1, 2002
Health and safety considerations, radiological monitoring of releases and potential exposures outside the Duratek facilities in Oak Ridge and Kingston	Phil Gianutsos, Duratek	September 5, 2002
Proposed Changes to the Sanitary Biosolids Land Application on the Oak Ridge Reservation	Joseph W. Birchfield, Alliant Corporation:	October 3, 2002
Progress of the Decontamination and Decommissioning and modernization of the Y-12 plant	Cathy Hickey, BWXT Y-12	November 7, 2002
Rarity Ridge development and proposed changes to the site streams and wetlands	Steve Byrd, Oak Ridge City Engineer and Gary Consorto, Rarity Ridge	January 9, 2003
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and DOE Environmental Decision Making	David Allen, Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Operations (Oak Ridge Operations)	March 3, 2003

4. TECHNICAL REVIEWS CONDUCTED BY EQAB

In all EQAB reviewed more than 80 communication items during fiscal year 2003. The following is a list of some of the more significant document, decision, or referral issue reviews conducted by EQAB during the past year.

Document/Issue	EQAB Action
Sampling Report for the Scarboro Community, Oak Ridge, Tennessee (SESD Project No. 01-1222, September 2002),	Technical Review & memo to Council
Draft Environmental Assessment on Proposed Changes to the Sanitary Biosolids Land Application Program on the Oak Ridge Reservation (DOE/EA-1356, August 2002)	Technical Review & memo to Council
Public Notice, Proposed Residential and Commercial Development in Roane County, Tennessee (Rarity Ridge); November 19, 2002 Proposed Stream and Wetlands Alterations at Rarity Ridge Phase 1 Development	Technical Review & Memo to Council
<i>Draft Environmental Assessment Addendum for the Proposed Title Transfer of ETP Land and Facilities (DOE/EA-1175-A, January 2003), February 26, 2003</i>	Technical Review & Memo to Council
Routes for Transportation of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Cylinders from ETP	Memo to Council

5. OTHER ISSUES

5.1 ATTENDANCE

EQAB met every month except July during fiscal year 2003. Attendance at EQAB's regularly scheduled monthly meetings averaged 79%.

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 2003 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
Work Plan for 2003-2004**

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. Participate in community discussions about options for replacing or renovating the high school.
10. Evaluate and make recommendations on alternatives for encouraging and enhancing the preservation of Oak Ridge's historic resources.
11. 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.

Approved by EQAB for submission to City Council, November 6, 2003

12. Cooperate with the Chamber of Commerce and other groups in beautification activities and continued support of the Adopt-A-Street Program and other litter reduction measures in the City.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Perform environmental reviews of industries as requested by City Council or City Manager.
17. Advise City Council on environmental matters brought to the attention of the Board by citizens.
18. Support the decision-making process on issues of environmental concern by reviewing relevant consultant reports submitted to the city.
19. 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.
20. Perform other related work as requested by the City Council or City Manager.