



Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation

March 17, 2021

## **Melton Hill Lake Clean Up – March 27**

To be a part of the Melton Hill Lake Cleanup, meet at Carbide Park on March 27 (10 am to 1 pm EST). For more information see [Melton Hill Lake Cleanup 3.27.21 — Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful \(keeptnriverbeautiful.org\)](#)

## **Integrating Economics and Ecology for Seasonal Migratory Species Conservation - March 26**

Virtual forum presented by Dr. [Charles Sims](#). Friday March 26 10:00AM EST sponsored by the Howard H. Baker Jr Center for Public Policy. The Zoom link can be found [here](#).

## **Concerns about DOE’s Proposed “Environmental Management Disposal Facility” (EMDF)**

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to build a new landfill on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) for radioactive and hazardous waste from ongoing cleanup. The proposed site is largely forested in an area of the ORR that DOE agreed would be kept uncontaminated and has hydrology unsuitable for waste disposal. Because the landfill would be a remedial action under CERCLA (the Superfund law), it would be built and operated without public involvement and regulatory oversight that apply to ordinary landfills. Furthermore, DOE will ask for waivers from some substantive regulations. AFORR would prefer that radioactive and hazardous wastes go to licensed facilities in the arid west instead of wet, populous Tennessee.

DOE has not answered questions from environmental groups about waste acceptance criteria for the landfill, comparative costs and jobs for onsite versus offsite disposal, the environmental regulations that DOE wants to have waived, and plans for putting mercury waste in the landfill. Even so, DOE will likely announce a final Record of Decision in the coming month. Concerns about the EMDF should be submitted to John Japp (DOE: [John.Japp@orem.doe.gov](mailto:John.Japp@orem.doe.gov)), Colby Morgan (TDEC: [Colby.Morgan@tn.gov](mailto:Colby.Morgan@tn.gov)), Connie Jones (US EPA: [jones.constance@epa.gov](mailto:jones.constance@epa.gov)), and elected officials. Further information can be found at <https://aforr.info/hazardous-waste-landfill-emdf/>.

DOE is scheduled to give an EMDF presentation during the public meeting of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB) meeting on May 12, with more detail during the Environmental Management/Stewardship Committee meeting on May 26. ORSSAB is a federally appointed citizens' panel that provides independent advice and recommendations to DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM). DOE is asking members of the public to request invitations to these virtual meetings via email to [orssab@orem.doe.gov](mailto:orssab@orem.doe.gov) by no later than 5 p.m. EST the week before each meeting.

## **Motorsports Complex in Oak Ridge a Cause for Concern**

Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation opposes a proposal to build a motor sports racetrack and a 7,000-person amphitheater in the Horizon Center. This land was transferred from the US Department of Energy (DOE) for industrial use but DOE retained deed on Natural Areas restrictions to minimize environmental impacts. The area proposed for the racetrack is adjacent to the Black Oak Ridge Conservation Easement, which has legal protection for both wildlife and recreation and has popular high-quality greenway trails. It is likely that loud noises and exhaust from racing cars and noise and lights from concerts would seriously harm the natural attributes of the forest and greenway. Before this project can proceed, the Oak Ridge City Council (ORCC) must first approve a new Special Recreation District (SRD) and then approve the racetrack at the site. The ORCC may vote on the SRD as early as April 12th. After that, the DOE will make its decision on approval of the project. Please pay attention to this project and call or email your opinions on it to the ORCC ([citycouncil@oakridgetn.gov](mailto:citycouncil@oakridgetn.gov)) and the DOE ([john.shewairy@science.doe.gov](mailto:john.shewairy@science.doe.gov)). Information about the proposed racetrack can be found at <https://aforr.info/motorsports-complex/>.

## **Comments due March 19 regarding TVA EIS Scope**

TVA has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to address potential environmental effects associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of an advanced nuclear reactor technology park at TVA's 935-acre Clinch River Nuclear (CRN) Site in Oak Ridge. See <https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/environmental-reviews/nepa-detail/clinch-river-nuclear-site-advanced-nuclear-reactor-technology-park>. The proposed site is a forest that provides many ecosystem services and habitat such as riparian areas, areas surrounding caves, and other potential habitat for bats, salamanders, and rare species. A brownfield site would be more appropriate location. Comments are due March 19 and can be submitted online at <https://www.tva.com/nepa> or by email to [nepa@tva.gov](mailto:nepa@tva.gov)

## **AFORR Executive Board**

- President – Virginia Dale
- Vice President- Ellen Smith
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- Representative for The Nature Conservancy of TN- Katherine Medlock

- Representative for the Foundation for Global Sustainability – Wolf Naegeli
- Representative for Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) - Jimmy Groton
- At-large members: Bill Schramm, Doug Colclasure, Gray Dean, and Jasmine Kreig

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Membership Level:

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NOTE: Nothing of monetary value has been provided in consideration of these membership dues and additional contributions. AFORR is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, so donations are tax-deductible as contributions.

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c/o Kennedy

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