

ORR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN FOCUS GROUP MEETING NOTES

May 3, 2002

A working meeting of the Focus Group (FG) was held in the City Services Complex at 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on May 3, 2002.

Attendees

The following members of the Focus Group were in attendance: Scott Davis, Ray Evans, Ralph Lillard, Parker Hardy, Robert Kennedy, Lorene Sigal, Dev Joslin, Bill Pardue, Steve Alexander, Joe Valentino, Paul Boyer, Marshall Whisnant, Beth Phillips (Tony Grande alternate), Lawrence Young, Eric Rauch, and David Mosby. Gary Farmer substituted for Lloyd Stokes. Marty Marina and Pete Craven could not attend.

Members of the Facilitation Team in attendance were Barry Lawson, Pat Parr, Marianne Heiskell, and Wayne Tolbert. Linda Ponce and Mike Holland attended briefly and Mr. Holland addressed the group. David Allen (DOE NEPA) and Susan Cange (Assets Utilization) also attended.

New Action Items

- June 5 public meeting
- Draft Technical Report due to Focus Group on June 14
- Focus Group to email draft recommendations for the FG Report to Barry Lawson by June 10
- Focus Group think about and be prepared to comment on the cumulative impact assumptions for the socioeconomics analysis

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda/Meeting Notes

The proposed meeting agenda was briefly discussed, agreed upon, and followed. There were no changes to the March meeting notes.

Announcements

Susan Cange updated the status of Parcel ED-1. She noted the transfer under the Atomic Energy Act and the "770 process" which allows defense properties to be transferred for economic development reasons. She discussed the need for an Addendum to the EA for Parcel ED-1 (transfer instead of lease and recent evaluation of monitoring data) and noted a 15-day public comment period is planned along with a public information session.

In response to FG questions it was noted that a recommendation had been made that DOE do statistical analysis of data for trends with an eye toward changing the monitoring regime if appropriate. Also deed restrictions are the mechanism DOE will employ to insure that protection of the exclusion zone is done. The project is on a fast track with a transfer expected in August.

Mike Holland, recently appointed Interim Manager of DOE-ORO, spoke about his 6-month detail to the ORR. He noted his prior experience (12 years with DOE and 17 with a nuclear utility) as germane to his current assignment. He spoke

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briefly about the presidential initiative to help make various government departments more responsive to public needs. He urged the FG to "agree where you can, compromise where you can, and agree to disagree in a constructive manner on those things where agreement and compromise are not possible." He noted that the next DOE-ORO manager would be the decision maker on the land use planning on the west end.

Pat Parr discussed the newsletter, noted a new website address for the project, and indicated that the public meeting had been changed from May 23 to June 5 to avoid conflicting with the Oak Ridge High School graduation. She also discussed the status of the 4 scenario maps and the fact the project is on schedule.

Parker Hardy discussed the "Citizens Guide to the Environment," an effort headed by Bill Pardue. A group of 50 citizens and some local businesses have put together a newspaper insert, a 28-page guide and tri-fold handout discussing safe environmental conditions in Oak Ridge. The materials acknowledge the history of DOE and predecessor agencies in the area and note some historical contamination, which is in the process of being remediated.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time or at the end of the FG meeting.

Impacts Analysis Process

Wayne Tolbert

Wayne Tolbert briefed the FG on the status of the impacts analysis. He emphasized the iterative nature of the process, the preliminary nature of the results to date and the fact that more effort is being expended on more important decision parameters.

He discussed the general findings noting that the scenarios were very similar to one another in many respects (because of the excellent cooperation and dedicated effort of the FG). Some key differences found in socioeconomics and biological resources with other areas having lesser differences. In addition to these two topics, environmental justice, wetlands, water resources, soils and geology air quality, utilities, noise and scenic resources were discussed. The analysis for interior bird species and socioeconomics are the most advanced and scenic resources are the least advanced of the topics analyzed. To date the focus has been on direct and indirect impacts with cumulative impacts to be addressed later.

The FG indicated that noise, biodiversity, and transportation needed to be added or expanded (specifically it was suggested that the proposed four-lane expansion with median from the flyover of Highway 58/95 to the guard shack be added). DOE was not aware of any official communication from TDOT making this request; the City of Oak Ridge has "reams of plans" provided by the State. One action item is to get information from the city and incorporate into the analysis.

Sharon Bell

Ms. Bell summarized the results of the economic analysis for the four scenarios specified. Even when many future events are unknown, it is often possible to use available information to estimate 1) the order of magnitude of the impacts, and 2) the relative size of the impacts for each scenario compared to the others. This type of analysis requires only a reasonable and consistent set of assumptions that are used for all scenarios, and often provides enough information for decision making without requiring detailed forecasts of future events.

Preliminary results of this analysis suggest that Scenario 2: Development Emphasis, would provide the maximum economic benefit to the city, as measured by employment, regional income, and tax revenue for the city. As expected, Scenario 1: Greenspace Emphasis, would provide the smallest economic benefit, while benefits from Scenario 3: Modified ED-3 fell in between these two scenarios. Scenario 4: Less Development would provide benefits only slightly higher than would Scenario 1. Cost-benefit analysis yielded similar results, but the results are sensitive to several key assumptions, which were then discussed by the focus group. Ms. Bell briefly introduced key assumptions for cumulative impact assessment and preliminary economic results. The focus group was asked to review these assumptions carefully and provide appropriate feedback, since these assumptions will be used in common for several types of analyses.

Four Scenarios

The four scenarios were briefly discussed. Specifically, it was noted that very recently DOE Albuquerque has indicated a mission need for about 14 acres at the corner of Blair Road and the Turnpike. It was pointed out that under the Parcel ED-3 scenario this parcel was needed for industrial development. If this area is "off the table," then other land would need to be found to replace it.

It was asked if small changes in land use might be made in some instances to improve wildlife habitat.

Future Planning Activities/Next Steps

A Public Meeting is being planned for June 5th. It would run from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. and would be held in the Oak Ridge Mall. It is envisioned as an interactive type meeting. Information stations will include posters, technical analyses updates, visual resources assessment, interactive socio-economic model demonstrations, small group discussions with project members, and refreshments. Focus Group members are encouraged to attend.

Barry Lawson lead a discussion on whether the FG would write a report and what form it might take. He revisited the schedule with the FG. The need to include the recommendation for perpetual protection of conservation lands was mentioned, as was a question on when and how the report would be used.

The Focus Group will receive the Draft Technical Report on June 14. It will also be made available to the public (DOE Reading Rooms) following the Focus Group meeting.

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There was a discussion among the FG on trying to reach consensus on as many things as possible and finding a mechanism to make recommendations. It was agreed that FG members could email draft recommendations to Barry Lawson and he would compile them and report to the FG at the next meeting on June 14.

The next Focus Group meeting will be June 14.