



Migratory birds known to nest on the Oak Ridge Reservation, such as this summer tanager, are covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. DOE and its partners follow a wildlife management plan to protect migratory birds and their habitats.

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Compliance Summary and Community Involvement

Activities conducted on ORR must conform to environmental standards established by federal and state statutes and regulations, DOE orders, contract-based standards, and compliance and settlement agreements where applicable. EPA and TDEC are the principal regulating agencies that issue permits, review compliance reports, participate in joint monitoring programs, inspect facilities and operations, and enforce compliance with applicable regulations.

The following sections summarize the major environmental statutes and their 2024 status for DOE operations on ORR. Note that the DOE Reindustrialization Program, typically in coordination with the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, has leased several facilities at ETPP and the Oak Ridge Science and Technology Park at ORNL to private entities over the past several years. This report does not discuss the compliance status of these lessee operations.

2.1. Laws and Regulations

Table 2.1 is a summary of the principal environmental standards applicable to DOE activities on the reservation and their 2024 status and the sections in this report that provide more detailed information.

2.2. External Oversight and Assessments

Table 2.2 lists the inspections of ORR's environmental activities conducted by regulatory agencies for each of the major ORR sites (ETPP, Y-12, and ORNL) during 2024. This table does not include internal DOE or DOE contractor assessments, audits, or evaluations.

2.3. Reporting of Oak Ridge Reservation Spills and Releases

Substances defined as hazardous under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) are considered harmful to human health and the environment. Because many are commonly used substances that are harmless in normal uses but can be dangerous when released, CERCLA establishes reportable quantities for hazardous substance releases. Neither ETTP, Y-12, nor ORNL had any spills exceeding CERCLA reportable quantity limits.

Certain releases of oil must be reported if they “cause a film or sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines” (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* 110.3[b]). Neither ETTP, Y-12, nor ORNL had any reportable releases of oil to area waterways.

Neither ETTP, Y-12, nor ORNL had any reportable releases of extremely hazardous substances, as defined by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, in 2024. See Sections 3.3.12, 4.3.10, and 5.3.10 of this report for more information.

2.4. Notices of Violations and Penalties

ETTP had no notices of environmental violations or penalties in 2024.

In 2024, there were no Clean Air Act violations or exceedances at Y-12. Compliance with the Y-12 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) water discharge permit limits was 100 percent. Non-compliances with the Clean Water Act were as follows:

- On July 17, 2024, a Notice of Violation was received from TDEC for a fish kill resulting from a potable water line break on June 20, 2024.

- On October 1, 2024, a fish kill occurred when controlled low-strength material (concrete mix) from UCOR pre-demolition activities entered East Fork Poplar Creek through an abandoned drain line from the basement of Building 9201-02. The discharge resulted in high turbidity, elevated pH, and the death of approximately 1,300 fish and other aquatic organisms.
- On July 28, 2024, the instantaneous flow rate in the sanitary sewer peaked at approximately 4,000 gallons per minute (gpm), exceeding the 2,100-gpm limit. This was a result of a 2.2-inch rainfall in 2.5 hours.

Personnel from the TDEC Division of Solid Waste Management performed an unannounced Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste compliance inspection of Y-12 from May 21-22, 2024. One issue was identified: a 10-gal container of hazardous waste was not labeled with the accumulation start date. This was corrected immediately. The issue and its causes were reviewed to prevent recurrence.

TDEC conducted a compliance inspection at ORNL on December 12, 2024, and a minor violation was issued for a petroleum underground storage tank. The violation was immediately resolved and was closed by TDEC on January 14, 2025. There were no notices of environmental violations or penalties received by other contractors (Isotek and UCOR) who conducted activities at ORNL in 2024. ORNL wastewater treatment facilities achieved a numeric permit compliance rate of 100 percent in 2024. The Carbon Fiber Technology Facility also achieved 100 percent compliance with the UT-Battelle City of Oak Ridge Industrial and Commercial User Discharge Pre-Treatment Permit in 2024.

2.5. Community Involvement and Resources

DOE and its contractors provided or supported numerous community involvement activities in 2024 that addressed a range of subjects. These included American Museum of Science and Energy

community meetings hosted by the City of Oak Ridge, ETTP airport public meetings, American Museum of Science and Energy public bus tours of ORR, and public comment periods for environmental permitting and groundwater cleanup.

During 2024, DOE and its contractors continued long-term partnerships with organizations such as East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Second Harvest Foodbank of East Tennessee, Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley, Court, Appointed Special Advocates, YMCA of East Tennessee, Friends of the Smokies, the University of Tennessee Nuclear Engineering Department, and Roane State Community College. DOE contractors and employees donated over \$1.6 million to these and many other charities and programs in FY 2024 (ORNL 2024, UCOR 2024a, UCOR 2024b, Y-12 2024a, Y-12 2024b, Y-12 2024c).

2.5.1. Public Comments Solicited

To keep the public informed of comment periods and other matters related to cleanup activities on ORR, DOE publishes online notices at <https://www.energy.gov/orem/services/community-engagement>, conducts public meetings, and issues notices in local newspapers, as appropriate. Information on environmental policy and DOE's commitment to providing sound environmental stewardship practices and keeping the public informed is available to the public through sponsored forums and public documents such as this report. In 2024, public comments were solicited on the East Tennessee Technology Park Main Plant groundwater remedy selections, among other topics.

2.5.2. Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board is a federally appointed citizens' panel that provides independent advice and recommendations to the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program. The board was formed in 1995 and is composed of up to 22 members chosen to reflect the diversity of genders, races, occupations, views, and interests of persons living near ORR. Members

are appointed by DOE and serve on a voluntary basis without compensation. Information on recommendations the board has made since its establishment, minutes of board and committee meetings, and other information are available at <https://www.energy.gov/orem/oak-ridge-site-specific-advisory-board>. Videos of the first hour of recent board meetings are posted at <https://www.energy.gov/orem/listings/oak-ridge-site-specific-advisory-board-meetings>. (For more information, call 865-241-4583 or 865-241-4584.)

2.5.3. DOE Information Center

The DOE Information Center, located at 1 Science.Gov Way, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is a one-stop information facility that maintains a collection of more than 45,000 documents describing environmental activities in Oak Ridge.

The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached by phone at 865-241-4780, or toll-free at 1-800-382-6938 (option 6). An online catalog that can be used to search for DOE documents by author, title, date, and other words or phrases is available at <https://www.energy.gov/orem/services/community-engagement/doe-information-center>.

2.5.4. Other Resources

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry: 1-800-232-4636, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>
- DOE main website: <https://www.energy.gov>
- DOE Oak Ridge Public Affairs Office: 865-576-4912
- EPA Region 4: 1-800-241-1754 or 404-562-9900, <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast>
- TDEC, DOE Oversight Division: 865-481-0995, <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/rem-remediation/orr.html>

- ETPP:
<https://www.energy.gov/ore/cleanup-sites/east-tennessee-technology-park>
- Y-12 National Security Complex:
<https://www.y12.doe.gov/>
- ORNL: <https://www.ornl.gov/>

Table 2.1. Applicable environmental laws and regulations and 2024 status

Regulatory program description	2024 status	Report sections
The Clean Air Act and State of Tennessee rules regulate the release of air pollutants through permits and quality limits. Emissions of radionuclides are regulated by EPA via National Emission Standards for Emissions of Radionuclides Other Than Radon from Department of Energy Facilities. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory tracking and reporting are regulated by EPA and by DOE.	In 2024, all activities on ORR were conducted in accordance with Clean Air Act requirements.	3.3.4 4.3.4 5.3.3
The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) provides a regulatory framework for remediation of the release or threat of release of hazardous substances from past practices on ORR.	ORR was placed on the EPA National Priorities List in 1989. The ORR Federal Facility Agreement, initiated in 1992 between EPA, TDEC, and DOE, established the framework and schedule for developing, implementing, and monitoring remedial actions on ORR. The on-site CERCLA EMWMF is operated by UCOR for DOE. Located in Bear Creek Valley, EMWMF is used for disposal of waste resulting from CERCLA cleanup actions on ORR. EMWMF is an engineered landfill that accepts low-level radioactive, hazardous, asbestos, and PCB wastes, and combinations of these wastes, in accordance with specific waste acceptance criteria under an agreement with state and federal regulators. No CERCLA notices of violations were issued for ORR actions during 2024.	3.3.9 4.3.8, 4.3.12 5.3.8
The Clean Water Act seeks to protect and improve surface water quality by establishing surface water standards enabled by a system of permits. Wastewater discharges are regulated by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits issued by TDEC.	Discharges to surface water at each of the three major ORR sites are governed by NPDES permits. In 2024, ETTP, Y-12, and ORNL achieved a compliance rate of 100% with NPDES permit limits (see Appendix D). Two fish kills were reported at Y-12. On July 17, 2024, a Notice of Violation was received from TDEC for a fish kill resulting from a potable water line break on June 20, 2024. On October 1, 2024, controlled low-strength material (concrete mix) from UCOR pre-demolition activities entered East Fork Poplar Creek, resulting in the death of approximately 1,300 fish and other aquatic organisms. An instantaneous flow rate exceedance in the sanitary sewer occurred on July 28, 2024, at Y-12 from excessive rainfall.	3.3.5, 3.3.6 4.3.5 5.3.4
The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) Section 438 establishes requirements for federal agencies to reduce storm water runoff from development projects to protect water resources.	A variety of storm water management techniques, referred to as green infrastructure or low impact design practices, have been implemented on ORR to comply with EISA. The associated reporting provides data to support EISA Section 438 compliance.	4.2.6.3, 4.2.6.9 5.2.1.4, 5.2.1.5, 5.2.1.6

Table 2.1. Applicable environmental laws and regulations and 2024 status (continued)

Regulatory program description	2024 status	Report sections
The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) , also referred to as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title III, requires reporting of emergency planning information, hazardous chemical inventories, and environmental releases of certain toxic chemicals to federal, state, and local authorities.	In 2024, DOE facilities on ORR operated in accordance with emergency planning and reporting requirements as defined by EPCRA. ETPP had no reportable releases of hazardous or extremely hazardous substances. Y-12 reported seven extremely hazardous substances and 47 hazardous substances that were over Section 312 inventory thresholds. ORNL exceeded the Section 3.13 reporting threshold and reported on the manufacture of nitrate compounds as by-products of on-site sewage treatment.	3.3.12 4.3.10 5.3.10
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of how federal actions may impact the environment and an examination of alternatives to the actions. NEPA also requires that decisions include public input and involvement through scoping and review of certain NEPA documents.	During 2024, DOE planning and decision-making activities at ETPP, Y-12, and ORNL were conducted via site-level procedures that provide requirements for project reviews and NEPA compliance. In 2024, two environmental assessments and 31 NEPA reviews were conducted at Y-12, with one of the reviews being a federal CX document requiring approval by the NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer. UT-Battelle, LLC at ORNL conducted 152 reviews of activities that were approved under general actions or generic CX determinations.	3.3.2 4.3.2 5.3.2
The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) provides protection for the nation's historic resources by establishing a comprehensive national historic preservation policy.	ORR has several facilities eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Proposed activities are reviewed to determine potential adverse effects on these properties, and identify methods to avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse effects or harm. During 2024, activities on ORR were conducted in compliance with NHPA requirements.	3.3.3 4.3.3 5.3.2
ORR Protection of Wetlands Programs are implemented to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of ORR wetlands and to preserve and enhance their beneficial value.	Surveys to determine the presence of wetlands are conducted as needed for projects or programs through NEPA and other reviews to facilitate compliance with TDEC and USACE requirements. Wetland protection on ORR is conducted according to 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 and EO 11990, <i>Protection of Wetlands</i> . No new wetlands were delineated at ETPP or Y-12 in 2024. At ORNL, two wetlands were delineated in 2024.	1.3.6.1 5.3.12
The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) governs the generation, storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous wastes. RCRA also regulates underground storage tanks containing petroleum and hazardous substances, universal waste, and recyclable used oil.	Y-12, ORNL, and ETPP are defined as large-quantity generators of hazardous waste, because each generates more than 1,000 kg of hazardous waste per month. Each site is also regulated as a handler of universal waste. In addition, several permits have been issued for hazardous waste management units on ORR. No notices of violation were issued for ETPP in 2024. ORNL had a minor violation that was immediately resolved involving a petroleum underground storage tank. At Y-12, one issue was identified—a 10-gal container of hazardous waste was not labeled with the accumulation start date. This was corrected immediately. The issue and its causes were reviewed to prevent recurrence.	3.3.8 4.3.7, 4.3.13 5.3.6, 5.3.7

Table 2.1. Applicable environmental laws and regulations and 2024 status (continued)

Regulatory program description	2024 status	Report sections
The Safe Drinking Water Act establishes minimum drinking water standards and monitoring requirements.	The City of Oak Ridge supplies potable water to the facilities on ORR and is responsible for meeting all regulatory requirements for drinking water. Sampling results in 2024 for residual chlorine levels, bacterial constituents, and disinfectant by-products in ORR's water system were all within acceptable limits.	3.3.7 4.3.6 5.3.5
The Toxic Substances Control Act regulates the manufacture, use, and distribution of a number of toxic chemicals.	PCB waste generation, transportation, disposal, and storage at ORR are regulated under EPA regulations for each of the three ORR sites with EPA RCRA identification numbers TN3890090001, TN1890090003, and TN0890090004. Each site issues an independent PCB Annual Document Log and PCB Annual Report. In 2024, UT-Battelle operated four PCB storage areas. Three were located at ORNL, and one was located at the Y-12 Complex. The ORR PCB Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement between EPA and DOE continues to provide a mechanism to address legacy PCB-use issues across ORR. The agreement specifically addresses the unauthorized use of PCBs, storage and disposal of PCB waste, PCB spill cleanup and decontamination, PCBs mixed with radioactive materials, PCB research and development, and ORR records and reporting requirements. EPA is updated annually on the status of DOE actions regarding management and the progress on the disposition of legacy PCBs covered by the ORR PCB Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement.	3.3.11 4.3.9 5.3.9
The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protects bald and golden eagles by prohibiting, except under specified conditions, the taking or possession of and commerce in such birds. The act imposes criminal and civil penalties for any such actions.	Bald eagles are known to frequent ORR year-round. Two active bald eagle nests on ORR are protected in accordance with this act.	1.3.6.2
The Endangered Species Act prohibits activities that would jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species or cause adverse modification to a critical habitat.	ORR is host to several plant and animal species categorized as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and these species are protected in accordance with this act.	1.3.6.2, 1.3.6.3
The Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects migratory birds by governing the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of such birds, including their eggs, parts, and nests and any product, manufactured or not, from such items.	ORR hosts numerous migratory birds that are protected under this act.	1.3.6.2

Table 2.1. Applicable environmental laws and regulations and 2024 status (continued)

Regulatory program description	2024 status	Report sections
DOE Order 231.1B, Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting , ensures timely collection, reporting, analysis, and dissemination of information on environment, safety, and health issues.	The <i>2024 Oak Ridge Reservation Annual Site Environmental Report</i> summarizes ORR environmental activities during 2024 and characterizes environmental performance.	All chapters
DOE Order 435.1, Change 1, Radioactive Waste Management , is implemented to ensure that all DOE radioactive waste is managed in a manner that protects workers, public health and safety, and the environment.	Waste certification programs that are protective of workers, the public, and the environment have been implemented for all activities on ORR to ensure compliance with this DOE order.	3.2.6 4.3.14, 4.7 5.3.13
DOE Order 458.1, Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment , issued in June 2011, canceled DOE Order 5400.5 and was established to protect members of the public and the environment from undue risk from radiation. This order established standards and requirements for operations of DOE and DOE contractors.	In 2024, DOE Order 458.1 was the primary contractual obligation for radiation protection programs for UT-Battelle, LLC and Consolidated Nuclear Security LLC, and for all UCOR work scope areas where existing CERCLA decision documents do not specifically identify DOE Order 5400.5 requirements. A dose assessment was performed to ensure that the total dose to members of the public from all DOE ORR pathways did not exceed the 100 mrem annual limit established by this order. The assessment estimated the maximum 2024 dose to a hypothetically exposed member of the public from all ORR potential exposure pathways combined would be about 4 mrem. Therefore, the 2024 maximum effective dose was about 4% of the 100 mrem annual limit given in DOE Order 458.1. Clearance of property from ORNL, ETP, and the Y-12 Complex was conducted in accordance with approved procedures that comply with DOE Order 458.1. There were no unplanned radiological air emission releases from the three major ORR sites in 2024. No limits were exceeded in 2024.	3.2.6 4.3.4, 4.3.14 5.3.13, 5.5, 5.6.2 Chapter 6 Chapter 7
DOE Order 5400.5, Radiation Protection , was established to protect members of the public and the environment against undue risk from radiation. This order established standards and requirements for operations of DOE and DOE contractors.	DOE Order 5400.5 is the primary environmental surveillance radiological applicable, relevant, and appropriate requirement for most CERCLA activities across ORR. It will remain in force until the individual CERCLA decision documents are reissued or revised to incorporate DOE Order 458.1. A dose assessment, performed to ensure the total dose to members of the public from all ORR pathways did not exceed the 100 mrem annual limit established by this order, estimated the maximum 2024 dose to a hypothetical exposed member of the public from all ORR potential exposure pathways combined would be about 4 mrem.	Chapter 7

Table 2.1. Applicable environmental laws and regulations and 2024 status (continued)

Regulatory program description	2024 status	Report sections
Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds , identifies the responsibilities of federal agencies to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations.	A memorandum of understanding entered into by DOE and the US Fish and Wildlife Service meets the requirements under Section 3 of EO 13186. ORR hosts numerous migratory birds that are present either seasonally or year-round. This memorandum, which was updated in September 2013, strengthens migratory bird conservation on ORR through enhanced collaboration between DOE and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.	1.3.6.2

Acronyms:

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

CX = categorical exclusion

DOE = US Department of Energy

EISA = Energy Independence and Security Act

EMWMF = Environmental Management Waste Management Facility

EO = Executive Order

EPA = US Environmental Protection Agency

EPCRA = Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

ETTP = East Tennessee Technology Park

GHG = greenhouse gas

mrem = millirem

NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act

NHPA = National Historical Preservation Act

NNSA = National Nuclear Security Administration

NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

ORNL = Oak Ridge National Laboratory

ORR = Oak Ridge Reservation

PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl

RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

UCOR = United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC

USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

UT-Battelle = UT-Battelle, LLC

Y-12 or Y-12 Complex = Y-12 National Security Complex

Table 2.2. Summary of external regulatory environmental audits, inspections, and assessments at ORR, 2024

Date	Reviewer	Subject	Issues
<i>East Tennessee Technology Park</i>			
June 20	TDEC	ETTP NPDES Permit TN0002950 CEI	0
November 9	EPA	ETTP Site Tour	0
<i>Y-12 National Security Complex</i>			
March 21	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspections of ILF-V, ILF-IV, CDL-VII, and Semiannual Post Closure Inspection of ILF-II	0
March 26	City of Oak Ridge	Sanitary Sewer Inspection	0
April 11	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspections of ILF-II, ILF-V, and CDL-VII	0
May 21–22	TDEC/EPA	Annual RCRA Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspection	1
July 10	TDEC	Air Quality Inspection	0
August 1	TDEC/City of Oak Ridge	ORR Landfill Inspection of ILF-V and CDL-VII Leachate Collection Systems	0
August 1	TDEC/City of Oak Ridge	Sanitary Sewer Inspection	0
August 19	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspection of ILF-V and CDL-VII	0
September 19	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspection of ILF-IV	0
November 22	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspections of ILF-V and CDL-VII. Second Semiannual Post Closure Inspection of ILF-II	0
December 12	TDEC	Quarterly ORR Landfill Inspection of ILF-IV	0
<i>Oak Ridge National Laboratory</i> (including UT-Battelle, UCOR, and Isotek activities)			
March 4–5	TDEC	Hazardous Waste Compliance Evaluation Inspection (including UT-Battelle, TWPC, and UCOR)	0
March 26	City of Oak Ridge	CFTF Wastewater Pretreatment Permit Inspection	0
April 3	KCDAQM	Hardin Valley Campus Clean Air Act Inspection	0
September 23	City of Oak Ridge	CFTF Wastewater Pretreatment Permit Inspection	0
August 9	TDEC	TWPC Clean Air Act Inspection	0
December 4	TDEC	Clean Air Inspection for ORNL	0

Acronyms:

CDL = Construction/Demolition Landfill

CEI = Compliance Evaluation Inspection

CFTF = Carbon Fiber Technology Facility

EPA = US Environmental Protection Agency

ETTP = East Tennessee Technology Park

ILF = Industrial Landfill

ISOTEK = Isotek Systems, LLC

KCDAQM = Knox County Department of Air Quality Management

NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

ORR = Oak Ridge Reservation

RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

TDEC = Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

TWPC = Transuranic Waste Processing Center

UCOR = United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC

UT-Battelle = UT-Battelle, LLC

2.6. References

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