6. Oak Ridge Reservation Environmental Monitoring Program

Environmental monitoring is performed on the Oak Ridge Reservation to measure radiological and nonradiological parameters directly in environmental media adjacent to the facilities. Data from the environmental monitoring program are analyzed to assess the environmental impact of US Department of Energy operations on the entire reservation and the surrounding area. Dose assessment information based on data from this program is presented in Chapter 7.

Because of differing permit-reporting requirements and instrument capabilities, various units of measurement are used in this report. The information found in "Units of Measure and Conversion Factors" is intended to help readers convert numeric values presented here as needed for specific calculations and comparisons.

6.1 Meteorological Monitoring

Ten meteorological towers provide data on meteorological conditions and on the transport and diffusion qualities of the atmosphere on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). Data collected at the towers are used in routine dispersion modeling to predict impacts from facility operations and as input to emergency response atmospheric models, which are used for simulated and actual accidental releases from a facility. Data from the towers are also used to support various research and engineering projects.

6.1.1 Description

The 10 meteorological towers on the ORR are described in Table 6.1 and are depicted in Figure 6.1. In this document, the individual ORR-managed towers are designated by "MT" followed by a numeral. Other commonly used names for the sites are also provided in Table 6.1. Meteorological data are collected at different levels above the ground (2, 10, 15, 30, 33, 35, and 60 m) to assess the vertical structure of the atmosphere, particularly with respect to wind shear and stability. Stable boundary layers and significant wind shear zones (associated with the local ridge-and-valley terrain and the Great Valley of Eastern Tennessee; see Appendix B) can significantly affect the movement of a plume after a facility release (Bowen et al. 2000). Data are collected at the 10 or 15 m level at most towers, but the lowest wind measurement height for MT11 is 25 m and 20 m for MT13. Additionally, data are collected at selected towers at the 30, 33, 35, and 60 m levels. Temperature, wind speed, and wind direction are measured at each measurement level except 2 m. Atmospheric stability (a measure of vertical mixing properties of the atmosphere) is measured at most towers; however, measurements involving vertical temperature profiles (i.e., measurements made by the solar radiation delta-T method) limit accurate determination of nighttime stability to the towers that are 60 m in height (if using the Solar Radiation–Delta Temperature method). Stability is also calculated for sites MT2 and MT4; the Sigma Phi method is applied to the standard deviation of vertical wind speed. Barometric pressure is measured at one or more of the towers at each ORR plant (MT2, MT4, MT6, MT7, MT9, MT12, and MT13). Precipitation is measured at MT6 and MT9 at the Y-12 National Security Complex (the Y-12 Complex); at MT7 and MT13 at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP); and at MT2, MT3, MT4, and MT12 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Solar radiation is measured at MT6 and MT9 at the Y-12 Complex, MT7 at ETTP,

and at MT2 and MT12 at ORNL. Calibrations of the instruments are managed by UT-Battelle and are performed every 6 months by an independent auditor (Holian Environmental).

Table 6.1. Oak Ridge Reservation meteorological towers

Tower	Alternate tower names	Location (lat., long.)	Altitude (m above MSL)	Measurement heights (m)
		ETTP[a]		
MT7	L, 1209	35.92522N, -84.39414W	233	15, 30
MT13	J, YEOC	35.93043N, -84.39346W	237	20
		ORNL		
MT2	D,[b] 1047	35.92559N, -84.32379W	261	2, 15, 35, 60
MT3	B, 6555	35.93273N, -84.30254W	256	15, 30
MT4	A, 7571	35.92185N, -84.30470W	266	15, 30
MT10	M, 208A	35.90947N, -84.38796W	244	10
MT12	F	35.95285N, -84.30314W	354	10
		Y-12 Complex		
MT6	W, West	35.98058N, -84.27358W	326	2, 10, 30, 60
MT9	Y, PSS Tower	35.98745N, -84.25363W	290	2, 15, 33
MT11	S, South Tower	35.98190N, -84.25504W	352	25

[a] Tower MT1 (K1208) was retired August 1, 2017.
[b] Tower "C" before May 2014.

Acronyms
ETTP = East Tennessee Technology Park
ORNL = Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Y-12 Complex = Y-12 National Security Complex
MSL = mean sea level
PSS = plant shift superintendent
YEOC = Y-12 Complex Emergency Operations Center

Sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) devices have been installed at the east end of the Y-12 Complex and adjacent to Tower MT2 at ORNL. The SODAR devices use acoustic waves to estimate wind direction, wind speed, and turbulence at altitudes higher than the reach of meteorological towers (40 to 900 m above ground level). Although SODAR measurements are somewhat less accurate than measurements made on the meteorological towers, the SODAR devices provide useful information regarding stability, upper air winds, and mixing depth. Mixing depth represents the thickness of the air layer adjacent to the ground over which an emitted or entrained inert nonbuoyant tracer could potentially be mixed by turbulence within 1 h or less.

Data are collected in real time for 1 min, 15 min, and hourly average intervals for emergency response purposes and for dispersion modeling at the ORNL and Y-12 Complex Emergency Operations Centers.

Annual dose estimates are calculated from the archived hourly data. Data quality is checked continuously against predetermined data constraints, and out-of-range parameters are marked as invalid and are excluded from compliance modeling. Appropriate substitution data are identified when possible. Quality assurance records of missing and erroneous data are routinely kept for the 10 ORR towers.

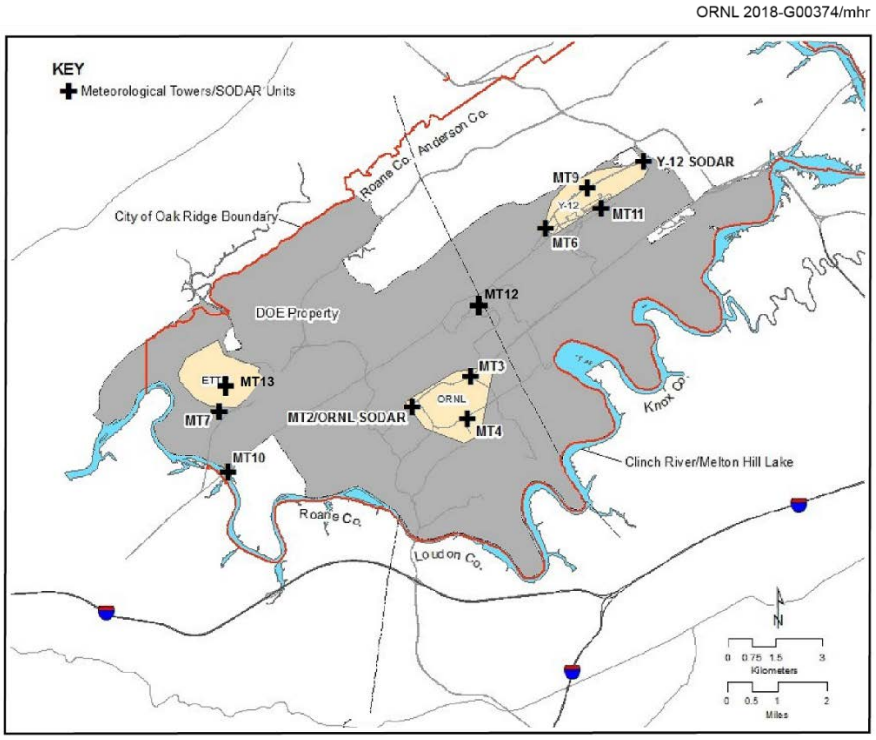

Figure 6.1. The Oak Ridge Reservation meteorological monitoring network, including sonic detection and ranging (SODAR) devices

6.1.2 Results

Prevailing winds are generally up-valley from the southwest and west-southwest or down-valley from the northeast and east-northeast, a pattern that typically results from channeling effects produced by the parallel ridges flanking the ORR sites. Winds in the valleys tend to follow the ridge axes, limiting cross-ridge flow within local valley bottoms. These conditions dominate over most of the ORR, but flow variation is greater at ETTP, which is located in a less-constrained open valley bottom.

On the ORR, low wind speeds dominate near the valley surfaces, largely because of the decelerating influence of nearby ridges and mountains. Wind acceleration sometimes is observed at ridge-top level, particularly when flow is not parallel to the ridges (see Appendix B).

The atmosphere over the ORR is often dominated by stable conditions at night and for a few hours after sunrise. These conditions, when coupled with low wind speeds and channeling effects in the valleys, result in poor dilution of emissions emitted from the facilities. However, high roughness values (caused by terrain and obstructions such as trees and buildings) partially mitigate these factors through an increase in turbulence (atmospheric mixing). These features are captured in dispersion model data input and are reflected in modeling studies conducted for each facility.

Precipitation data from tower MT2 are used in stream-flow modeling and in certain research efforts. The data indicate the variability of regional precipitation: the high winter rainfall resulting from frontal systems and the uneven, but occasionally intense, summer rainfall associated with thunderstorms. The total precipitation at ORNL during 2017 (1,454 mm or 57.26 in.) was about 10% above the long-term average of 1,337.5 mm (52.64 in.). The average annual wind data recovery rates (a measure of acceptable data) across locations used for modeling during 2017 were greater than 98% for wind sensors at the

ORNL sites MT2, MT4, and MT10. Site MT3 average annual wind data recovery was about 91% due to a major tower upgrade during August 2017. Site MT12 was brought online for the first time in October 2017. Annual wind data recovery from Y-12 meteorological towers during 2017 exceeded 98% (towers MT6, MT9, and MT11). At ETTP, significant lightning damage limited recovery at Site MT7 to about 71% at 15 m and 91% at 30 m. Site MT1 (K1208) was decommissioned in August 2017; Site MT13 (operated by Y-12) replaced it.

6.2 External Gamma Radiation Monitoring

6.2.1 Data Collection and Analysis

External gamma exposure rates are continuously recorded by dual-range Geiger-Müller tube detectors colocated with ORR ambient air stations. In 2017 several changes to station locations were made to reflect changes in activities on the ORR that have occurred since the original sites were established in the 1990s. Figure 6.2 shows locations that were monitored for all or part of 2017. During the year, as new stations came online, others were discontinued, resulting in only partial data for several locations.

Table 6.2 summarizes the data for each station.

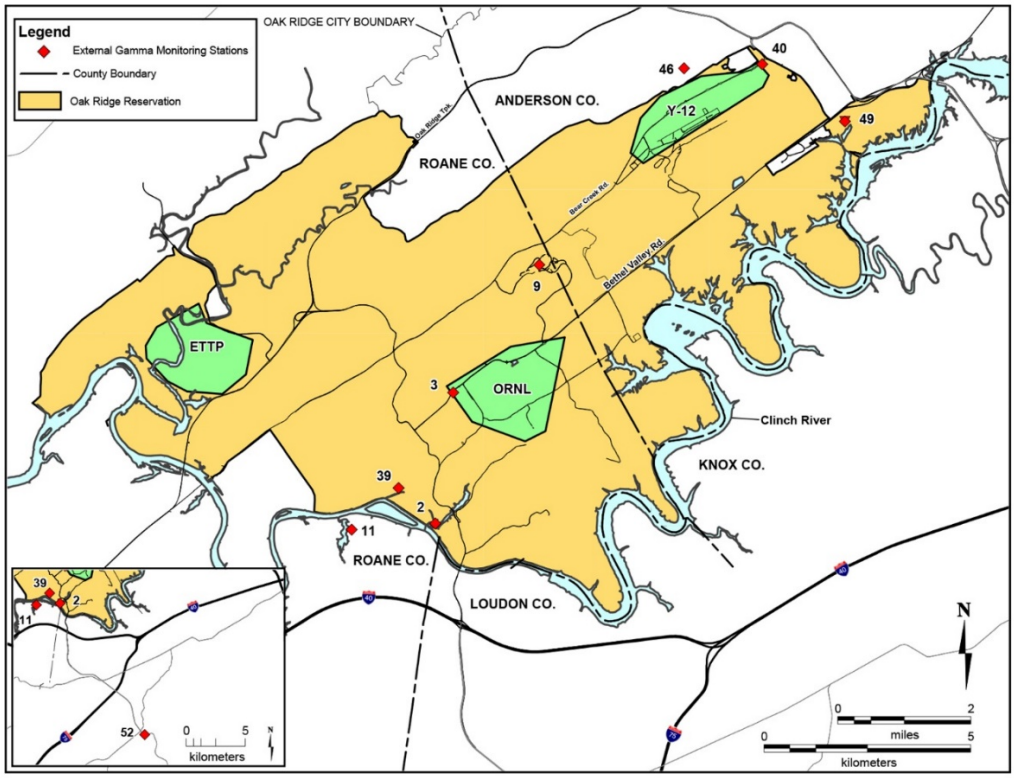

Figure 6.2. External gamma radiation monitoring locations on the Oak Ridge Reservation

6.2.2 Results

The mean exposure rate for the reservation network in 2017 was 10.5 µR/h, and the mean rate at the reference location was 9.5 µR/h. Background direct radiation exposure rates have been collected at an off-site location for many years. From 2007 through 2016 (the preceding 10 years), the exposure rates at the background off-site location ranged from 4.2 to 11.4 µR/h. The exposure rate at the off-site background

location ranged from 5.6 to 11.4 µR/h from 2007 through 2017. The average exposure rate for those years was 7.6 µR/h (rounded to 8 µR/h).

Table 6.2. External gamma (exposure rate) averages for the Oak Ridge Reservation, 2017

Monitoring location	Number of data points (daily)	Measurement (µR/h)[a]		
		Min	Max	Mean
02	358	8.1	11	9.4
03	363	9.0	12	9.4
09	659	9.3	13	10
11	69	11	12	11
39	236	9.6	14	13
40	362	9.4	12	10
46	338	10	12	11
49	357	9.4	12	10
52	363	8.7	11	9.5

[a] To convert microroentgens per hour (µR/h) to milliroentgens per year, multiply by 8.760.

6.3 Ambient Air Monitoring

In addition to exhaust stack monitoring conducted at the US Department of Energy (DOE) ORR installations (see chapters 3, 4, and 5), ambient air monitoring is performed to measure radiological parameters directly in the ambient air adjacent to the facilities (Figure 6.3). Ambient air monitoring provides a means to verify that contributions of fugitive and diffuse sources are insignificant, serves as a check on dose-modeling calculations, and would allow determination of contaminant levels at monitoring locations in the event of an emergency.

Figure 6.3. Oak Ridge Reservation ambient air station

Ambient air monitoring conducted by individual site programs is discussed in chapters 3, 4, and 5. The ORR ambient air monitoring program complements the individual site programs and permits the impacts of the ORR operations to be assessed on an integrated basis. This program is discussed in detail in the following sections.

The objectives of the ORR ambient air monitoring program are to perform surveillance of airborne radionuclides at the reservation perimeter and to collect reference data from a location not affected by activities on the ORR. The perimeter air monitoring network was established in the early 1990s. Since then there have been significant operational changes on the ORR (e.g., addition of Spallation Neutron Source and Transuranic Waste Processing Center operations and shutdown of the Toxic Substances Control Act Incinerator), and significant cleanup and remediation projects have been completed. The network was modified in 2016 to better reflect current DOE activities and operations. The stations monitored in 2017 are shown in Figure 6.4. Reference samples are collected from Station 52 (Fort Loudoun Dam). Sampling was conducted at each ORR station during 2017 to quantify levels of alpha-, beta-, and gamma-emitting radionuclides. Upgrades were done sequentially throughout 2016 and 2017, so only partial data were available at several locations in 2017.

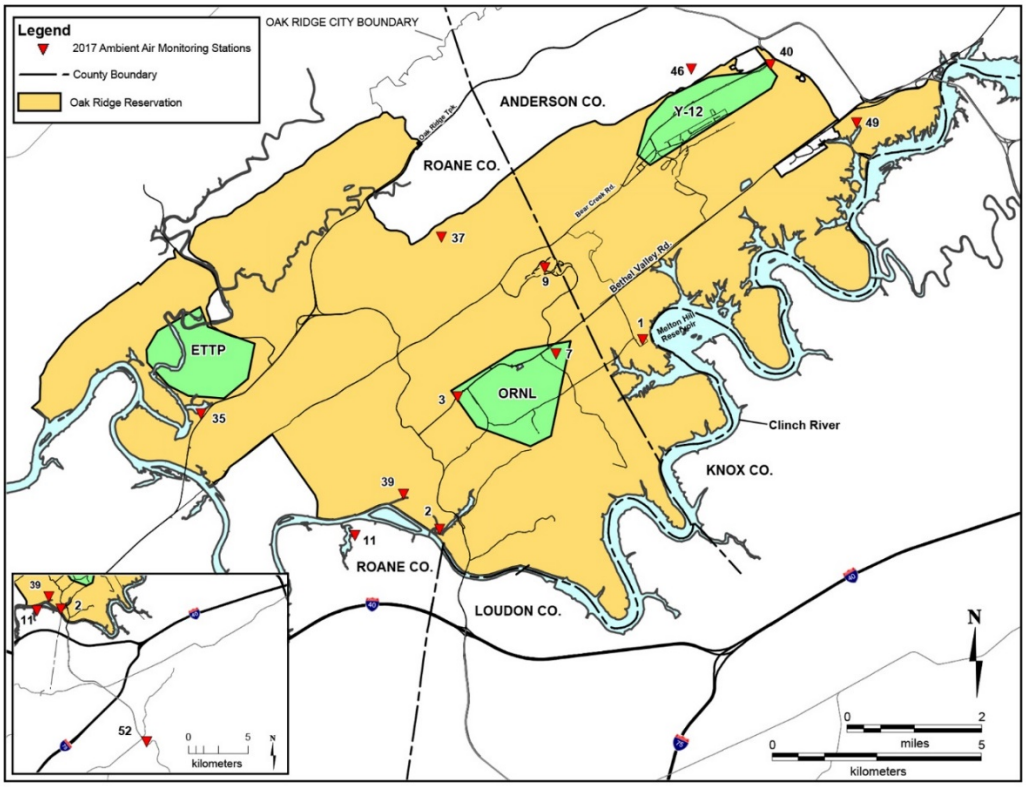

Figure 6.4. Locations of Oak Ridge Reservation perimeter air monitoring stations

Atmospheric dispersion modeling was used to select appropriate sampling locations. The locations selected are those likely to be affected most by releases from the Oak Ridge facilities. Therefore, in the event of a release, no residence or business near ORR should receive a radiation dose greater than doses calculated at the sampled locations.

The sampling system consists of two separate instruments. Particulates are captured by high-volume air samplers equipped with glass-fiber filters. The filters are collected weekly, composited quarterly, and then submitted to an analytical laboratory to quantify gross alpha and beta activity and to determine the concentrations of specific isotopes of interest on the ORR. The second system is designed to collect tritiated water vapor. The sampler consists of a prefilter followed by an adsorbent trap that contains indicating silica gel. The samples are collected weekly or biweekly, composited quarterly, and then submitted to an analytical laboratory for tritium analysis.

6.3.1 Results

Data from the ORR ambient air network are analyzed to assess the impact of DOE operations on the local air quality. Each measured radionuclide concentration (Table 6.3) is compared with derived concentration standards (DCSs) for air established by DOE as guidelines for controlling exposure to members of the public (DOE 2011). All radionuclide concentrations measured at the ORR ambient air stations during 2017 were less than 1% of applicable DCSs, indicating that activities on the reservation are not adversely affecting local air quality.

Table 6.3. Radionuclide concentrations at Oak Ridge Reservation perimeter air monitoring stations, 2017

Parameter	N detected/N total	Concentration (pCi/mL)[a]		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
	Station 1			
^{7}Be	4/4	4.02E-08	2.04E-08	5.76E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-2.80E-10	-5.70E-10	3.89E-11
Tritium	2/4	6.98E-06	-2.52E-09	1.58E-05
^{234}U	4/4	1.72E-12	1.01E-12	2.31E-12
^{235}U	1/4	2.36E-13	1.45E-14	4.95E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.25E-12	3.81E-13	2.24E-12
	Station 2			
^{7}Be	4/4	3.68E-08	2.73E-08	4.88E-08
^{40}K	0/4	7.81E-11	-2.42E-10	3.05E-10
Tritium	2/4	2.87E-05	1.89E-09	1.03E-04
^{234}U	4/4	1.30E-12	6.83E-13	1.61E-12
^{235}U	1/4	1.46E-13	7.17E-14	2.48E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.38E-12	6.94E-13	2.01E-12
	Station 3			
^{7}Be	4/4	4.01E-08	2.77E-08	5.56E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-1.35E-10	-2.96E-10	1.14E-10
Tritium	1/4	3.86E-06	3.63E-09	1.28E-05
^{234}U	4/4	2.56E-12	1.53E-12	5.39E-12
^{235}U	1/4	2.26E-13	-8.77E-14	6.56E-13
^{238}U	3/4	1.04E-12	6.35E-13	1.30E-12
	Station 9			
^{7}Be	4/4	4.14E-08	3.01E-08	5.65E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-9.82E-11	-3.75E-10	1.23E-10
Tritium	4/4	3.15E-05	1.14E-08	5.34E-05
^{234}U	4/4	2.78E-12	1.44E-12	3.81E-12
^{235}U	1/4	2.40E-13	6.21E-14	4.76E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.90E-12	1.02E-12	2.99E-12
	Station 11[b]			
^{7}Be	1/1	5.51E-08	5.51E-08	5.51E-08
^{40}K	0/1	-3.26E-10	-3.26E-10	-3.26E-10
^{99}Tc	1/1	3.20E-10	3.20E-10	3.20E-10

Table 6.3 Radionuclide concentrations at Oak Ridge Reservation perimeter air monitoring stations, 2017 (continued)

Parameter	N detected/N total	Concentration (pCi/mL)[a]		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
Tritium	0/1	9.17E-06	9.17E-06	9.17E-06
^{234}U	1/1	2.48E-12	2.48E-12	2.48E-12
^{235}U	0/1	2.39E-13	2.39E-13	2.39E-13
^{238}U	1/1	1.65E-12	1.65E-12	1.65E-12
Station 35				
^{7}Be	4/4	4.42E-08	3.73E-08	5.28E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-2.04E-10	-6.09E-10	1.40E-12
^{99}Tc	2/3	3.17E-10	-6.29E-11	5.74E-10
Tritium	0/4	3.97E-06	-1.26E-09	7.47E-06
^{234}U	4/4	3.02E-12	9.03E-13	6.12E-12
^{235}U	2/4	2.08E-13	-4.69E-14	5.40E-13
^{238}U	4/4	4.27E-12	1.85E-12	1.10E-11
Station 37				
^{7}Be	4/4	3.87E-08	2.72E-08	4.92E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-7.99E-11	-4.20E-10	2.42E-10
Tritium	2/4	2.99E-05	-3.84E-10	1.10E-04
^{234}U	4/4	2.02E-12	7.25E-13	3.07E-12
^{235}U	0/4	1.71E-13	9.45E-14	3.43E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.32E-12	8.13E-13	2.63E-12
Station 39[c]				
^{7}Be	3/3	4.47E-08	3.02E-08	5.38E-08
^{40}K	0/3	-2.62E-10	-4.68E-10	-9.85E-11
Tritium	1/3	2.55E-06	-1.19E-09	4.14E-06
^{234}U	2/3	1.13E-12	1.84E-13	2.02E-12
^{235}U	0/3	2.00E-13	-1.45E-14	3.89E-13
^{238}U	3/3	1.18E-12	5.18E-13	1.66E-12
Station 40				
^{7}Be	4/4	3.96E-08	3.01E-08	5.21E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-2.90E-11	-2.06E-10	1.40E-10
Tritium	2/4	5.20E-06	4.76E-09	1.22E-05
^{234}U	4/4	8.45E-12	6.06E-12	1.21E-11
^{235}U	2/4	3.43E-13	6.18E-14	6.78E-13
^{238}U	4/4	3.04E-12	2.68E-12	3.38E-12
Station 46				
^{7}Be	4/4	3.89E-08	3.17E-08	5.12E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-2.95E-10	-5.53E-10	3.84E-12
Tritium	1/4	4.27E-06	1.95E-09	7.25E-06
^{234}U	4/4	3.66E-12	1.97E-12	5.39E-12
^{235}U	0/4	1.44E-13	2.72E-14	2.64E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.52E-12	1.35E-12	1.78E-12

Table 6.3 Radionuclide concentrations at Oak Ridge Reservation perimeter air monitoring stations, 2017 (continued)

Parameter	N detected/N total	Concentration (pCi/mL)[a]		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
	Station 49			
^{7}Be	4/4	3.99E-08	2.83E-08	5.63E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-3.70E-11	-2.97E-10	3.57E-10
Tritium	1/4	3.93E-06	-8.28E-10	7.53E-06
^{234}U	4/4	2.40E-12	1.06E-12	3.65E-12
^{235}U	¼	2.47E-13	-4.16E-14	5.48E-13
^{238}U	4/4	1.54E-12	8.72E-13	2.23E-12
	Station 52[d]			
	4/4	4.49E-08	3.76E-08	5.07E-08
^{40}K	0/4	-1.74E-10	-3.56E-10	1.02E-10
^{99}Tc	3/4	2.97E-10	-1.07E-10	5.77E-10
Tritium	1/4	2.51E-06	-1.54E-06	6.56E-06
^{234}U	4/4	2.14E-12	1.82E-12	2.48E-12
^{235}U	1/4	1.98E-13	3.09E-14	2.97E-13
^{238}U	4/4	2.00E-12	1.76E-12	2.46E-12

[a] 1 pCi = 3.7×10^{12} Bq.
[b] Station 11 became operational in Fall 2017; there are results from quarter 4 only.
[c] Station 39 was removed in Fall 2017; there are results from the first three quarters of 2017.
[d] Station 52 is the reference location.

6.4 Surface Water Monitoring

6.4.1 Oak Ridge Reservation Surface Water Monitoring

The ORR surface water monitoring program consists of sample collection and analysis from four locations on the Clinch River, including public water intakes (Figure 6.5). The program is conducted in conjunction with site-specific surface water monitoring activities to enable an assessment of the impacts of past and current DOE operations on the quality of local surface water.

Grab samples are collected quarterly at all four locations and are analyzed for general water quality parameters, screened for radioactivity, and analyzed for mercury and specific radionuclides when appropriate. Table 6.4 lists the specific locations and associated sampling frequencies and parameters.

The sampling locations are classified by the State of Tennessee for recreation and domestic use. Tennessee Water Quality Criteria (WQCs) associated with these classifications are used as references where applicable (TDEC 2014). The Tennessee WQCs do not include criteria for radionuclides. Four percent of the DOE DCS is used for radionuclide comparison because this value is roughly equivalent to the 4 mrem dose limit from ingestion of drinking water on which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) radionuclide drinking water standards are based.

6.4.2 Results

A comparison of radionuclide concentrations from 2017 sampling results for surface water collected upstream of DOE inputs with concentrations in surface water collected downstream of DOE inputs shows no statistically significant differences. No radionuclides were detected above 4% of the respective DCSs or the 4 mrem dose limit, which is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for beta and photon emitters in community drinking water systems (EPA 2009).

Mercury was not detected above its MCL during 2017 at any of the sampling locations where mercury samples are collected.

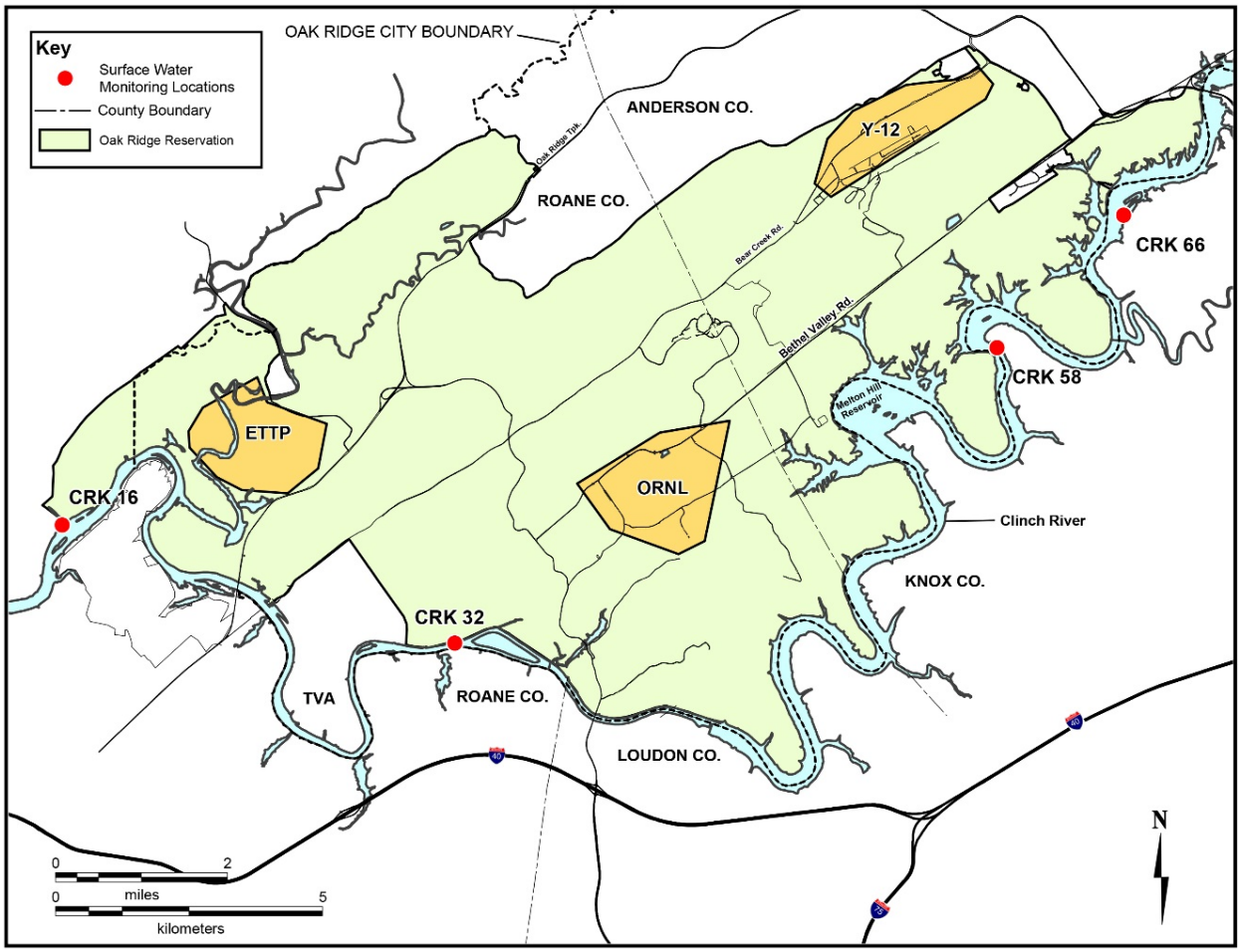

Figure 6.5. Oak Ridge Reservation surface water surveillance sampling locations

Table 6.4. Oak Ridge Reservation surface water sampling locations, frequencies, and parameters, 2017

Location[a]	Description	Frequency	Parameters
CRK 16	Clinch River downstream from all DOE ORR inputs	Quarterly	Mercury, gross alpha, gross beta, gamma scan, ^{3}H, field measurements[b]
CRK 32	Clinch River downstream from ORNL	Quarterly	Mercury, gross alpha, gross beta, gamma scan, total radioactive strontium, ^{3}H, field measurements[b]
CRK 58	Water supply intake for Knox County	Quarterly	Gross alpha, gross beta, gamma scan, ^{3}H, field measurements[b]
CRK 66	Melton Hill Reservoir above city of Oak Ridge water intake	Quarterly	Mercury, gross alpha, gross beta, gamma scan, total radioactive strontium, ^{3}H, field measurements[b]

[a] Locations indicate the water body and distances upstream of the confluence of the Clinch and Tennessee Rivers (e.g., CRK 16 is 16 km upstream from the confluence of the Clinch River with the Tennessee River, Watts Bar Reservoir).
[b] Field measurements consist of dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature.

Acronyms
CRK = Clinch River kilometer
DOE = US Department of Energy
ORNL = Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORR = Oak Ridge Reservation

6.5 Groundwater Monitoring

Work continued in 2017 to implement key recommendations from the *Groundwater Strategy for the U.S. Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation* (DOE 2013), which was agreed to in 2014 by DOE, EPA, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). During 2017 the ORR Groundwater Program focused on activities in two tasks, an assessment of off-site groundwater and construction and calibration of a regional-scale flow model.

6.5.1 Offsite Groundwater Assessment

During FY 2017 OREM (the Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management) continued to collect and analyze samples from the off-site groundwater monitoring well array west of the Clinch River adjacent to Melton Valley. In addition, exit pathway groundwater monitoring in Melton Valley is conducted as part of the OREM program, including sampling at six multiport monitoring wells in western Melton Valley (wells 4537, 4538, 4539, 4540, 4541, and 4542).

The off-site groundwater assessment project was aimed at documenting water quality in selected residential water supply wells and at springs to the west and southwest of the ORR. General water chemistry, metals, organic compounds, and radionuclides are included in the suite of analytes that were assessed. The off-site groundwater assessment project was completed in FY 2017. DOE issued a final report on the off-site groundwater study in October 2017 (DOE 2017a). The project is a cooperative effort among the parties to the ORR Federal Facility Agreement to investigate off-site groundwater quality and potential movement. This report was approved by TDEC and EPA in November 2017 and December 2017, respectively. The report is available at the DOE Information Center.

Sampling was completed at a total of 49 locations (34 wells and 15 springs) in Roane County and compared to primary drinking water standards. There were primary drinking water exceedances at three locations during the first round of sampling. The exceedances were for lead, gross alpha activity, and combined Ra-226 and Ra-228, constituents that can be naturally-occurring. The exceedances

corresponded with higher suspended solids and turbidity in the samples and were not repeated in the second and third rounds of samples.

6.5.2 Regional-Scale Flow Model

Construction and calibration of a regional-scale flow model was completed in FY 2017, and DOE issued a report on development of the regional groundwater flow model in July 2017 (DOE 2017b). The model will serve as an underlying framework to support future cleanup decisions and actions. A technical advisory group composed of experts from DOE, EPA, TDEC, and industry has met several times annually since 2014. Members of the advisory group reviewed progress and made recommendations for development and future use of the model.

6.6 Food

Food sources are analyzed to evaluate potential radiation doses to consumers of local food crops, fish, and harvested game and to monitor trends in environmental contamination and possible long-term accumulation of radionuclides. Samples of vegetables, milk, fish, deer, Canada geese, and turkeys are usually collected every year from areas that could be affected by activities on the reservation and from off-site reference locations. Vegetables and milk were not collected in 2017 because they were not available. No vegetables were available in 2017 from local farmers, and the dairy that had supplied milk samples went out of business. The areas identified as potential areas of impact from DOE activities will be checked during 2018 for farming, vegetable production, and dairy operations.

The wildlife administrative release limits associated with deer, turkey, and geese harvested on the ORR are conservative and were established based on the "as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)" principle to ensure that doses to consumers are managed at levels well below regulatory dose thresholds. The ALARA concept is not a dose limit but rather a philosophy that has the objective of maintaining exposures to workers, members of the public, and the environment below regulatory limits and as low as can be reasonably achieved. An administrative release limit of 5 pCi/g ^{137}Cs is based on the assumption that one person consumes all of the meat from a maximum-weight deer, goose, or turkey. This limit ensures that members of the public who harvest wildlife on the reservation will not receive significant radionuclide doses from that consumption pathway. In addition, a conservative administrative limit of 1.5 times background for gross beta activity has been established, a threshold that is near the detection limit for field measurements of $^{89/90}$Sr in deer leg bone.

6.6.1 Vegetables

Farms selling tomatoes, lettuce, and turnips near the ORR and from reference locations outside the potential DOE impact area were not identified in 2017. No vegetable samples were collected for analysis. When producers are identified, this program will resume.

6.6.2 Milk

Milk is a potentially significant exposure pathway to humans for some radionuclides deposited from airborne emissions because of the relatively large surface area on which a cow can graze daily, the rapid transfer of milk from producer to consumer, and the importance of milk in the diet.

The one dairy that had been supplying milk samples to ORNL went out of business in 2016. During 2017, surveys to locate dairies in areas that could receive deposition from ORR activities were conducted and did not identify any dairies to replace the one that closed. When a dairy or dairies are located, this program will resume.

6.6.3 Fish

Members of the public could be exposed to contaminants originating from DOE ORR activities through consumption of fish caught in area waters. This potential exposure pathway is monitored annually by collecting fish from three locations on the Clinch River and by analyzing edible flesh for specific contaminants. The locations are as follows (Figure 6.6):

- Clinch River upstream from all DOE ORR inputs [Clinch River kilometer (CRK) 70],
- Clinch River downstream from ORNL (CRK 32), and
- Clinch River downstream from all DOE ORR inputs (CRK 16).

Sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*, *L. auritus*, and *Ambloplites rupestris*) and catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) are collected from each of the three locations to represent both top-feeding and bottom-feeding-predator species. In 2017, a composite sample of each of those species at each location was analyzed for selected metals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), tritium, gross alpha, gross beta, gamma-emitting radionuclides, and total radioactive strontium. To accurately estimate exposure levels to consumers, only edible portions of the fish were submitted for analysis.

TDEC issues advisories on consumption of certain fish species caught in specified Tennessee waters. These advisories apply to fish that could contain potentially hazardous contaminants. TDEC has issued a "do not consume" advisory for catfish in the Melton Hill Reservoir in its entirety, not just in areas that could be affected by ORR activities, because of PCB contamination. Similarly, a precautionary advisory for catfish in the Clinch River arm of Watts Bar Reservoir has been issued because of PCB contamination (TDEC 2017). TDEC also issues advisories for consumption of fish when mercury levels are over 0.3 ppm; the three locations on the Clinch River where ORR fish are collected do not have mercury "do not consume" advisories. See additional information **here**.

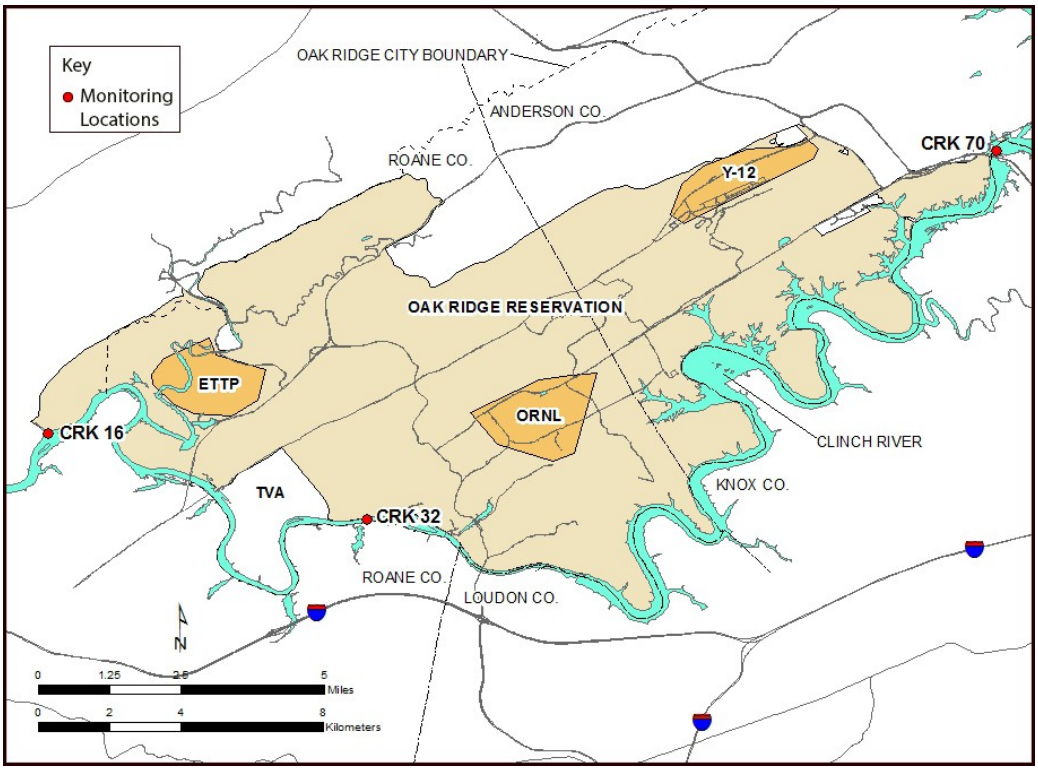

Figure 6.6. Fish-sampling locations for the Oak Ridge Reservation Surveillance Program

6.6.3.1 Results

PCBs, specifically Aroclor-1260, and mercury were detected in both sunfish and catfish at all three locations in 2017. These results are consistent with the TDEC advisories. Detected PCBs, mercury, and radionuclide concentrations are shown in Table 6.5.

Radiological analyses for fish tissues sampled in 2017 showed few statistical differences (at the 95% confidence level) between the upstream and downstream locations, indicating that DOE activities on the ORR are not significant contributors to the public radiological dose from fish consumption.

Table 6.5. Tissue concentrations in catfish and sunfish for detected mercury, PCBs, and radionuclides, 2017[a]

Parameter	Catfish[b]	Sunfish[b]
Clinch River downstream from all DOE ORR inputs (CRK 16)		
Metals (mg/kg)		
Hg	0.027	0.04
Pesticides and PCBs (µg/kg)		
PCB-1260	140	19
Radionuclides (pCi/g)[b]		
Beta activity	3.2[c]	3.7[c]
^{40}K	2.2[c]	3.8[c]
Clinch River downstream from ORNL (CRK 32)		
Metals (mg/kg)		
Hg	0.021	0.051
Pesticides and PCBs (µg/kg)		
PCB-1260	280	J18[d]
Radionuclides (pCi/g)[b]		
Alpha activity	-0.0032	0.056[c]
Beta activity	3.1[c]	3.8[c]
^{40}K	4.0[c]	2.2[c]
Clinch River (Solway Bridge) upstream from all DOE ORR inputs (CRK 70)		
Metals (mg/kg)		
Hg	0.074	0.018
Pesticides and PCBs (µg/kg)		
PCB-1260	61	18
Radionuclides (pCi/g)[b]		
Alpha activity	0.044[c]	-0.0015
Beta activity	3.5[c]	3.1[c]
^{40}K	3.2[c]	3.0[c]

[a] Only parameters that were detected for at least one species are listed in the table.
[b] Radiological results are reported after background activity has been subtracted. Negative values are reported when background activity exceeds sample activity.
[c] Radionuclide concentrations were significantly greater than zero. Detected radionuclides are at or above the minimum detectable activity.
[d] "J" indicates that the result is an estimated value.

Acronyms
CRK = Clinch River kilometer
DOE = US Department of Energy
ORNL = Oak Ridge National Laboratory
ORR = Oak Ridge Reservation
PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl

6.6.4 White-Tailed Deer

Three weekend quota deer hunts were held on the ORR during the final quarter of 2017. The hunts took place November 4–5, November 11–12, and December 9–10. Each hunt was limited to 450 shotgun/muzzleloader permittees and 600 archery permittees. UT-Battelle staff; Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) personnel; and student members of the Wildlife Society, University of Tennessee (UT) chapter, performed most of the necessary operations at the checking station.

Approximately 26,758 acres were available to deer hunters on the Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area (ORWMA) in 2017 (15,723 acres for gun hunting and 11,035 acres for archery hunting). The ORWMA includes some properties not owned by DOE, including Haw Ridge Park (city of Oak Ridge), the Clinch River Small Modular Reactor Site (the Tennessee Valley Authority), and the UT Arboretum. The total harvest in 2017 was 137 deer, of which 59 (~43.1%) were bucks, and 78 (~56.9%) were does. The heaviest buck weighed 167 lb and had nine antler points. The greatest number of antler points found on one buck was 12. The heaviest doe weighed 117 lb. The most significant contributing factor to the notably low deer harvest was likely the outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in the Tennessee deer herds during the summer of 2017. The outbreak of EHD appeared to impact east Tennessee more than the rest of the state, as evidenced by the number of dead deer reports and harvest decline. Warm weather experienced during the first weekend of hunts was likely another significant factor in the ORR harvest decline.

Since 1985, 12,979 deer have been harvested from the ORWMA, of which 218 (~1.7%) have been retained because of potential radiological contamination. The heaviest buck ever harvested weighed 218 lb (1998), and the heaviest doe ever harvested weighed 139 lb (1985). The average weight of all harvested deer is ~86 lb. The oldest deer harvested was a doe estimated to be 12 years old (1989); the average age of all harvested deer is ~2 years. See the ORR hunt information website **here** for more information.

6.6.4.1 Results

None of the 137 deer harvested on the ORR during the 2017 hunts were retained for exceeding the administrative release limit of 1.5 times background for beta activity in bone (~20 pCi/g $^{89/90}$Sr), nor for exceeding 5 pCi/g ^{137}Cs in edible tissue.

6.6.5 Canada Geese

On the Three Bends Area of the ORR, Canada goose hunting was allowed during the statewide season until noon on five days during September and four days during October. The consumption of Canada geese is a potential pathway for exposing members of the public to radionuclides released from ORR operations. To determine concentrations of gamma-emitting radionuclides accumulated by waterfowl that feed and live on the ORR, Canada geese are rounded up each summer for noninvasive gross radiological surveys.

6.6.5.1 Results

Sixteen geese (14 adults, 2 goslings) were captured during the June 15, 2017, roundup at the Solway Boat Ramp, Anderson County. All sixteen geese were subjected to live whole-body gamma scans. Gamma scan results for the 14 adult geese (all < 0.25 pCi/g ^{137}Cs) and 2 goslings (< 0.31 and < 0.34 pCi/g ^{137}Cs) showed that all were well below the administrative release limit of 5 pCi/g ^{137}Cs.

6.6.6 Turkey Monitoring

Two wild turkey hunts, managed by DOE and TWRA, were held on the reservation in 2017 (April 8–9 and April 22–23). Each hunt was limited to 225 hunters, preselected in a quota drawing. Approximately 22,134 acres were available to turkey hunters in 2017, of which 255 acres were available to archery-only hunters. Thirty-one male turkeys were harvested on the two hunts, of which six (~ 19.4%) were juveniles and 25 (~ 80.6%) were adults. The average weight of all turkeys harvested during spring 2017 hunts was ~18.5 lb, and the largest turkey weighed 23.7 lb. The average beard length was ~9.1 in., and the longest beard was 12.1 in. The average spur length was ~ 0.9 in., and the longest spur was 1.5 in.

In addition, two adult male turkeys (16 lb and 19 lb) were legally harvested by archery hunters on November 12 during the 2017 deer hunts. Both turkeys had 11 in. beards; one had 1 in. spurs; the other had 0.5 in. spurs. The largest turkey harvested to date on the ORR weighed 25.7 lb (harvested in 2009).

6.6.6.1 Results

None of the 31 turkeys harvested in 2017 exceeded the administrative release limits established for radiological contamination. Since 1997, 870 turkeys have been harvested on spring turkey hunts. Ten additional turkeys have been harvested (since 2012) by archery hunters during fall deer hunts. Of all turkeys harvested, only three (< 0.4%) have been retained because of potential radiological contamination; one in 1997, one in 2001, and one in 2005. Additional information is available **here**.

6.7 Quality Assurance

The activities associated with administration, sampling, data management, and reporting for the ORR environmental surveillance programs are performed by UT-Battelle. Project scope is established by a task team whose members represent DOE; UT-Battelle; Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC; and URS | CH2M Oak Ridge LLC. UT-Battelle integrates quality assurance, environmental, and safety considerations into every aspect of ORR environmental monitoring. (See Chapter 5, Sect.ion. 5.7, for a detailed discussion of UT-Battelle quality assurance program elements for environmental monitoring and surveillance activities.)

6.8 References

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