



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Division of Remediation Update

December 3, 2025

Brownfield Remediation Area Grant Program

- Funded annually at **\$5M**.
- Over **\$13.1M** in applications and award obligations in the first two years of the program.
- FY23-24: 54 projects in 46 counties were awarded funding totaling **\$4,340,595**.
- FY25-26: 84 projects across 52 counties totaling **\$8,825,316**.
- In both grant years, BRAG staff contacted all 95 counties.
- State of Montana using BRAG as a model for their own brownfield grant program.



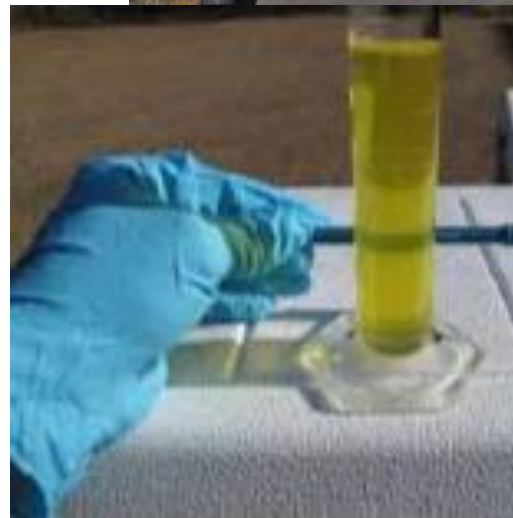
TN Clean

- Currently working on 27 sites statewide with a FY25-26 anticipated spend of **\$18.6M**.
- Remediation complete
 - Roscoe Fields, Knoxville, Knox County
 - American Nuclear Corporation, Oak Ridge, Anderson County
 - EPA Removal Branch completed work saving TDEC **\$12M** (GASB49 estimate was \$4M).
 - Burger Barn, Jackson, Madison County
 - Impacted by Boone Dry Cleaners; TDEC addressed VI mitigation at no cost to owner
- FY25-26 Planned Remediation
 - Velsicol Residue Hill, Chattanooga, Hamilton County
 - Morningside Chemical, Chattanooga, Hamilton County
 - John Little Drum, Memphis, Shelby County
 - Creotox, Memphis, Shelby County



NPL SSC Payments

- TDEC received two appropriations (**\$2M and \$10M**) between FY20-FY26.
- TDEC has paid **\$3,184,135** towards Superfund State Contract matches on four sites (Velsicol Hardeman County, Southside Chattanooga, Smalley-Piper, and Alamo Groundwater Plume).
- TDEC has not been required to expend funds at the rate anticipated because of EPA's use of BIL/IIJA funding (EPA allocated over **\$116M**) for work at NPL sites (which does not require a state match for a period of five years).



NPL SSC Payments

- TDEC anticipates spending on SSC matches will increase with the BIL/IIJA funding coming to an end at the close of FY26.
- TDEC's current outstanding obligation on NPL sites is **\$14,754,463**.

Alamo Contaminated GW	-	\$44,170
Former Custom Cleaners	-	\$378,098
Smalley-Piper	-	\$422,589
Smokey Mountain Smelters	-	\$445,965
Southside Chattanooga	-	\$731,030

(SSC amended to add \$7,177,220 in TDEC obligations and extend the period of SSC payments of \$500K for 14 years.)

Velsicol Hardeman County Soil	-	\$3,746,547
Velsicol Hardeman County Cap	-	\$479,031
Walker Machine	-	\$1,329,812

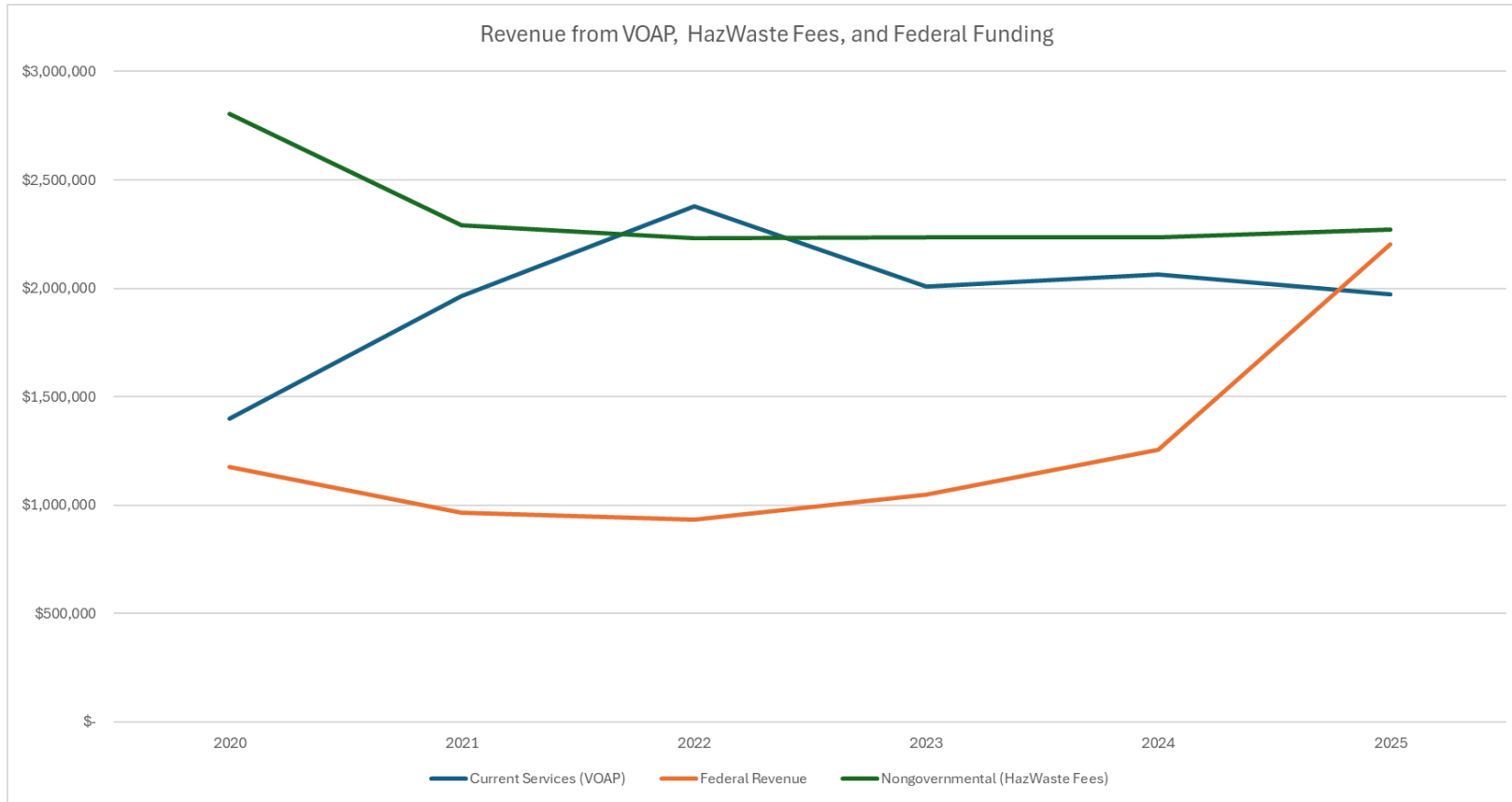
- Balance of remaining NPL SSC funds (August 31, 2025) is **\$9,815,864**.

Sources of DoR funding

- **\$1,000,000** annual appropriation, required by statute (TCA 68-212-203(e))
- Five different EPA grants, DoD cooperative agreement - **\$12.9M** total award (two awards are five-year cooperative agreements), **\$8.4M** of which is obligated.
 - Federally funded non-oversight work accounts for approximately **6.5 FTEs** annually.
 - Federally funded oversight work or that which involves significant federal cooperation accounts for approximately **3.0 FTEs** annually.
- Fees on hazardous waste (HWRAF)
 - The Division of Remediation collects fees on the generation of waste
 - The Division of Solid/Hazardous Waste Management collects fees on the disposal of waste
 - Cost recovery; voluntary and enforcement (VOAP)
 - Dry Cleaners Environmental Response Program (DCERP)

Hazardous Waste Generator Fees

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
VOAP Fees	\$ 1,397,117	\$ 1,962,969	\$ 2,376,943	\$ 2,006,382	\$ 2,063,017	\$ 1,971,694
Federal Revenue	\$ 1,175,313	\$ 964,720	\$ 930,916	\$ 1,048,268	\$ 1,256,962	\$ 2,202,162
Haz Waste Fees	\$ 2,806,398	\$ 2,289,684	\$ 2,231,593	\$ 2,233,911	\$ 2,235,747	\$ 2,269,320



Fees from the generator and off-site shipping fees currently represent one-third of the total external funding for the Hazardous Waste Remedial Action Fund.



Budget Challenges

- Legislative Appropriations; DoR has received over **\$117M**, however, **\$112M** of these funds are obligated towards program work (DCERP, BRAG, TN Clean, NPL SSC payments, Oak Ridge reserve funding).
- \$5M (DoR's annual \$1M statutory appropriation) is available for above the line costs (payroll). DoR funds personnel cost through State appropriations, VOAP fees, HWRAF fees, and Federal funds.
- From 2020 to 2025 DoR personnel costs have increased by **\$1,185,702**. DoR does not have access to the EPF and bears this increase in personnel cost out of the hazardous waste remedial action fund (annually appropriated at \$1M).
- From 2020 to 2025, the Division's average personnel costs were **\$4,362,908** and average agency internal admin costs during this period were **\$1,180,505** (over \$5.5M annually).
- From FY20-25, DoR lost positions (7 positions given to DWR in 2022) and has recently committed to transferring an additional four positions to DWR. Currently DoR has 53 FTEs (excluding DoR Oak Ridge).

DOE ETTP Land Transfers

- Almost 2,000 acres have now been transferred to public entities leading the “New Nuclear” initiative in Oak Ridge. Billions of dollars have been invested in East TN.
- Finalized Zone 1 Final Soils ROD documenting the cleanup decision to mitigate contaminated soil over 1300 acres at ETTP. The signing of this ROD fosters the revitalization and repurpose of ETTP for future land development.
- Orano, USA - Facilitated the transfer of approximately 668 acres in the proximity of ETTP through a Clean Parcel Determination. The property will be the future site of America’s new multi-billion dollar uranium enrichment facility and the single largest investment in Tennessee’s history.



VOAP



- From FY20-25, DoR completed 280 VOAP projects (totaling **7,319.15** ac) and included projects which developed more than **13,000** residential units (apartments, townhomes, or single-family homes).
 - Memphis Environmental Field Office; 54.32 ac and 810 residential units,
 - Nashville Environmental Field Office; 4,178.65 ac and 7,295 residential units,
 - Knoxville Environmental Field Office; 2,756.95 ac and 1,580 residential units,
 - Chattanooga Environmental Field Office; 329.23 ac and 3,390 residential units.

Velsicol Main Plant

- On October 22, 2025, the project was formally transferred from DSWM (following bankruptcy and termination of the RCRA permit) to DoR.
- 83-acre Site located on Warford Ave, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.
- Chemical manufacturing from the mid-1940s until 2015. Releases from process and storage areas and almost thirty SWMUs have contaminated the groundwater and soil (both onsite and offsite).
- Under the terms of the settlement, Velsicol will transfer title to the Memphis plant site to an environment response trust and make payments to the trust in the amount of approximately \$3.8 million over the course of 5 years. The trust will fund continued remedial activities at the Facility at the direction of TDEC.