

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMIT TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) has tentatively decided to reissue a hazardous waste storage and treatment permit to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) facility. The facility (EPA ID No. TN1890090003) is located in Roane County at 1 Bethel Valley Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37831 (see map). It is owned by DOE and the co-operator of this facility that manages the hazardous waste is United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC (UCOR). **TDEC invites the public to submit comments on this proposal during a 45-day comment period ending on August 2, 2025.**

DOE's current permit, TNHW-145, was issued on February 3, 2010, and was effective for ten years. Tennessee Hazardous Waste Management Regulations require that the facility submit the permit renewal application at least 180 days before the current permit expires. DOE submitted their Part A and Part B renewal applications on July 24, 2019. DOE is allowed to continue operations under the current permit until a final decision is made on the application.

As part of the pre-application process, DOE conducted a pre-application public meeting on May 28, 2019, as announced in a public notice published on April 10, 2019, in the editions of the The Oak Ridger and Roane County News. Oral comments were received from the public during the meeting and DOE addressed the comments at that time. No written comments were received.

The current permit, TNHW-145, allows the facility to store and treat hazardous wastes generated by DOE and its contractors prior to on or off-site treatment and disposal. The seven storage units in the Transuranic (TRU) storage areas are: Buildings 7572 (220,000 gal), 7855 (96,433 gal), 7860A (46,612 gal), 7883 (96,433 gal), 7574 (94,800 gal), 7879 (114,708 gal), and 7831F (7,920 gal). The eight storage areas at the TRU Waste Processing Centre (TWPC) are: Contact Handled Staging Area (22,000 gal), Waste Processing Building first floor (5,500 gal) and second floor (11,000 gal), Drum Aging Criteria and Drum Venting Building (11,000 gal), Container Storage Area (72,600 gal), Contact Handled Marshalling Building (145,420 gal), and Multi-Purpose Building (141,240). The combined total storage capacity for all 15 locations is 1,085,666 gallons.

The nine treatment processes performed at TWPC are: Macroencapsulation (9,350 gals/year), Amalgamation (10 lbs/hour), Solidification/Stabilization (50 gals/hour of liquids and 55 gals/24 hours of solids), Groundwater Absorption (825 gals/24 hours), Size Reduction (2,255 gals/24 hours), Groundwater Filtration (5,000 gals/year), Neutralization (5 gals/24 hours), Oxidation/Deactivation (2.2 pounds/24 hours), and Puncturing Potentially Pressurized Containers (55 gals/24 hours).

If the proposed permit is approved, the facility will continue operation of the current storage and treatment units. There will be no increase in the storage and treatment capacities.

Based on the review of the application and as authorized pursuant to Tennessee Rule 0400-12-01-07(7), DSWM has determined the application to be complete and has prepared a draft permit. DSWM proposes to issue the permit under the authority of the Tennessee Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1977, as amended, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-212-101 et seq., and Rule Chapter 0400-12-01, Hazardous Waste Management. In accordance with Rule 0400-12-01-07(7)(e), this notice requires a 45-day comment period, beginning on the date of this publication. A fact sheet has been prepared that provides additional information about the site and

the proposed permit. A public hearing is scheduled for July 22, 2025, to provide an additional opportunity for public comments. Pending consideration of any contrary information received, it is the present intent of DSWM to issue this permit. If issued, the permit would be effective for ten years.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at the United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC, Meet and Train Room, 701 Scarboro Road, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, as well as via video teleconference. Information on how to join online is provided below. An information session will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., EDT for the public to inspect and discuss the permit application, draft permit, fact sheet, plans, and other materials with representatives of DOE and DSWM. The formal hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., EDT with a presentation from DSWM on the tentative decision to issue the permit followed by a presentation from DOE describing the activities at the facility. After the presentations, DSWM will receive oral comments on the draft permit from the public that will be recorded. The public may submit written comments at the meeting.

Those who wish to join the public hearing virtually can do so by using the following link tn.gov/environment/notices/doe-ornl/hearing. Information regarding how to join by computer will be posted to this website at least three (3) days prior to the public hearing. Online participants will be able to view maps, pictures, and other content that will be shared.

Electronic copies of the draft permit and fact sheet are available online at tn.gov/environment/notices/doe-ornl. Digital and paper copies are available for review at the DSWM Central Office, located at the Davy Crockett Tower 7th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243 (615-532-0780) and at the TDEC Knoxville Environmental Field Office located at 3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921 (865-594-6035). A paper copy of the draft permit is available for review at the Oak Ridge Public Library, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865-425-3455).

To comment on the proposed permit renewal, contact Mr. Brett Harris, Hazardous Waste Permitting Manager, Division of Solid Waste Management, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Davy Crockett Tower, 7th Floor, 500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 (615-393-9221), Brett.Harris@tn.gov. **Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. CDT, August 2, 2025, to assure consideration.**

After considering all comments, DSWM will make a final decision to either issue or deny the permit. Notice will be given to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final decision. At the time of a final permit decision, a Response to Comments addressing all significant input received on the draft permit will be made available to the public. The final decision shall become effective upon signing by the Director of DSWM.

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EEO/AA/ADAAA inquiries or complaints may be directed to the ADAAA Coordinator, TDEC HR Division, at 615-532-0200. Hearing-impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service (800-848-0298).

If it is hard for you to read, speak, or understand English, TDEC may be able to provide translation or interpretation services free of charge. Please contact Janelle Starke at 615-906-2950 for more information.

If you would like to receive notices like this directly, contact the DSWM's Central Office for a Mailing List Request Form. Email Solid.Waste@tn.gov or call 615-532-0780.

NOTICE ISSUED: June 18, 2025

