

Ron Woody's Presentation to the Energy Community Alliance on August 16, 2012
in Los Alamos, New Mexico

Ron was asked to speak in a panel discussion on lessons learned in communication, education and working together.

Woody indicated that the lack of information created the greatest fear and mistrust among colleagues. Woody outlined the Challenge under a heading titled **"Come and Go"**:

Elected officials "Come and Go"
Department of Energy (DOE) Managers and Officers "Come and Go"
DOE Contractors "Come and Go"

With the "Come and Go" of personnel, information, understanding and knowledge is often lost and/or misinterpreted and as we have experienced over time all players Come & Go.

Technology changes and advancements "Come and Go"
Legislation changes often, "Comes and Goes", both at the State and Federal level
Budgets "Come and Go"

Environmental Cleanup. With the "Come & Go" of technology, legislation and budgets, it becomes increasingly more important to be informed and work together.

How do we meet and solve these challenges? We eat together; we meet at social events together; we must make ourselves come together in many venues. Like the community of the Energy Alliance, we must build relationships. We must dine together so we can talk together and know each other. No different than the Indians sitting in their Kiva or the Knights at King Arthur's roundtable. We dine and it is hard for our enemies to talk bad about us while eating our food.

- Oak Ridge community leaders meet each Friday morning at 7:30 for East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC) meetings, where DOE leadership, contractors, vendors, and local officials meet for one hour to share ideas. **We are together.**
- A small group of three elected officials met about every 4-6 weeks with one or two DOE leaders to discuss activities in the DOE community. We meet with DOE officials, environmental management contractors and reindustrialization colleagues about once every four to six weeks for progress updates.

The lesson we have learned is that there has been a lot of distrust over the years. Woody shared his white board example of one day in which he wrote on the top of the white board DOE, and then said we don't trust DOE so we have the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), then we don't trust EPA so we have the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), then on to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (ORSSAB), the local Environmental Review Board (ERB), and then the non-profit environmental groups. Woody said, "When all was said and done, the last one listed was **me**". A gentleman in the crowd then said 'I agree with you, except I don't trust myself sometimes.'"

The Oak Ridge community has recently abolished a non-profit Local Oversight Committee (LOC) and formed the new group, Oak Ridge Reservation Community Alliance (ORCCA). The ORCCA is in its infancy and is like many other organizations setting out goals and objectives to help inform the public and community leaders of the many challenges, risks, and opportunities in and around the Oak Ridge DOE Reservation. Information is forthcoming and we would be glad to share our journey at a future meeting. We know the lack of information means to many there is something to hide, "But to have information one must first have relationships."

What we have learned is that we must first build relationships, and the Oak Ridge Community builds relationships.

We thank our Department of Energy partners for being open with our local leaders whether we agree with budgets, milestones, or milestones missed, we appreciate being kept informed.