



Roane County Environmental Review Board

What We Do and Who We Are

Presentation to the Rockwood Civitan
Club, February 20, 2015

RCERB Purpose

- ▶ RCERB is a volunteer–manned advisory group serving the Roane County Executive and Commission.
- ▶ RCERB helps inform and advise the Roane County Executive, Commission, and citizens about environment–related activities occurring and proposed in the County that could have significant consequences for citizen health & safety, and/or to the county’s natural resources.
- ▶ RCERB is an advisory body; it has no regulatory or political authority. We understand that the Roane County Executive & Commission may consider recommendations from the ERB in making their judgments.

RCERB Membership

- ▶ Currently consists of 7 general members and 1 to 2 student members. Board members are recommended by the County Executive and approved/appointed by the Roane County Commission.
- ▶ General members serve for overlapping terms of 3 years. High school student members serve until the end of his/her senior year or a maximum 2-year term.
- ▶ One high school student desired to stay as a collage member.

2014–2015 RCERB Members

- ▶ Dave Martin – Acting Chairman, Retired
 - ▶ Mary Anne Koltowich – Acting Vice Chairman, Retired
 - ▶ Scott Gregory, Recorder
 - ▶ Carolyn Granger – Roane County Commissioner
 - ▶ David Reichle – Retired, former ORNL Assoc. Director
 - ▶ R. L. Pope – formerly TVA (outgoing member)
 - ▶ Allen Townsend – Restoration Services, Inc.
 - ▶ Tom Brown – formerly TVA, new incoming member
 - ▶ Robert W. Peelle, Retired, Lifetime Member Emeritus
 - ▶ John Hixson, Roane State Community College, graduate Midway High School 2014
-
- ▶ New term year starts August 1

RCERB 2014– 2015 Focus Areas

- ▶ **TVA Gypsum Landfill History and Permit Modification** – review of permits/plans; permit modification adds segregated area for fly ash, bottom ash disposal
- ▶ **ORR Cleanup Activities** – review of risk-based priorities, funding, communication
- ▶ **Clinch River/Jones Island Groundwater** – TDEC/DOE monitoring potential for migrating contamination under the Clinch River
- ▶ **Waste Management/Recycling** – promote recycling in our county/schools and membership on the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB)
- ▶ **Light Pollution** – identification of lighting problems
- ▶ **TVA Emory River Ash Spill** – follow recovery project & monitoring
- ▶ **Air Quality/Non-Attainment Issues** – Roane County now in EPA Knox municipal area for meeting air quality standards
- ▶ **Plateau Park** – Roane County vulnerable to wastewater treatment violations
- ▶ **Tiger Haven** – potential new focus area

Other Monitored Areas

- ▶ **Unkempt/Abandoned Properties** – Support District Attorney for forced cleanup
- ▶ **“Clean Marina Initiative” Participation** – Review proposals for marina expansions/new marinas (Caney Creek and Blue Springs marinas already participate)
- ▶ **Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Units (SMRs)** – Follow Clinch River Breeder Reactor site activities, RCERB registered with the NRC as a “stakeholder”
- ▶ **Hazardous Waste Day** – Promote and support

TVA Gypsum Pond Leak History – January 2011

- ▶ RCERB toured site and reviewed causes of leak and plans for gypsum storage presented by TVA
- ▶ Original NPDES permit – RCERB provided input to TDEC for required sampling, monitoring, and inspection criteria (including diking)
- ▶ Gypsum now stored dry in a pile to be approx. 60 ft high (TDEC permit is for 200 ft high wet storage)
- ▶ Gypsum is more toxic than fly ash, less stable, and more subject to liquefaction
- ▶ Recycle – Since scrubber conception, RCERB has strongly encouraging TVA to sell or contract disposal of gypsum vs storing near Clinch River

TVA Landfill Modification for Gypsum & Fly Ash Disposal

- ▶ Original landfill permitted in 2009 for disposal of gypsum created from air scrubber operations
- ▶ TVA now disposes of gypsum and fly ash in “dry” state
- ▶ 2011 geologic feature “drop-out” allows escape of disposed materials into Clinch River
- ▶ Area now permitted as a Title D municipal waste landfill
- ▶ Area repaired with extensive additional soil/rock removal, remediation of found “drop-outs,” installation of geo-liner and leachate collection systems
- ▶ 2014 modification requests TDEC to allow segregated storage of fly ash and bottom ash in same landfill
- ▶ RCERB reviewed permit modifications, submitted letter of position to TDEC, and toured gypsum/fly ash disposal areas

DOE ORR Cleanup Activities

- ▶ Follows DOE ORR Cleanup Program plans, status and progress (ETTP, ORNL, Y-12)
- ▶ Advises Roane County Executive re risk-based cleanup priorities
- ▶ Reviews current hot topics:
 - Proposed new low-level radioactive material landfill (EMDF) adjacent to current EMWMF
 - Increasing focus on mercury contamination migration into East Fork Poplar Creek
 - Zone 1 soils remediation at ETTP
- ▶ Attends Oak Ridge Reservation Community Alliance (ORRCA) Meetings (local government officials and representatives)

Clinch River/Jones Island Groundwater

- ▶ Past evidence of possible migration of ORR contaminants across/under Clinch River
- ▶ DOE – provides city water to area residents, samples onsite and offsite ORR wells, installed additional monitoring wells in Jones Island area, expanded sampling to cover both Melton and Bethel valley areas up to East Roane Industrial Park
- ▶ TDEC – provides oversight of DOE groundwater monitoring program
- ▶ RCERB – in direct contact with TDEC and DOE personnel involved to stay informed

Waste Management/Recycling

- ▶ Recycling – Ralph Stewart, Roane Waste Management director is the key participant
- ▶ New Baler – Midtown Recycling Center
- ▶ Litter – more involvement, awareness, participation needed to reduce local littering
- ▶ RCERB meets with Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) to review reports and make future recommendations
- ▶ Residential Developers – lack of construction debris cleanup; monitor TDEC Notices of Violations (NOVs)

Light Pollution

- ▶ Recent area of concern; emerging issue
- ▶ Addition of businesses in Midtown & Rockwood "glare bombs"
- ▶ Impact on Tamke Allan Observatory operated by Roane State Community College
- ▶ Not only a "pollution" issue – safety, nuisance, waste of energy
- ▶ Billboards and signs
- ▶ Security in parking lots can be accomplished with efficient lighting

TVA Emory River Ash Spill

- ▶ Reviewed water and air sampling results since the initial event on December 22, 2008
- ▶ Represented on the Long Range Recovery Committee (LRCC no longer operates)
- ▶ Attended TVA/EPA/TDEC Open Houses and workshops (e.g., 6 workshops during April, May, and June 2012 for the EE/CA); continues to review updates
- ▶ Reviews TVA Permits/Work Plans/Reports
- ▶ Invites EPA Project Manager, Craig Zeller, to provide status updates
- ▶ Tours ash spill work areas with TVA and EPA
- ▶ Monitoring of targeted wildlife to continue 30 years
- ▶ River monitoring and river modeling to continue 30 years

Air Quality Issues

- ▶ Air quality and “non-attainment” status by EPA
- ▶ Roane County – Became a member of county “compact” with Knox and other surrounding counties over 1 year ago
- ▶ “Compact” area – if found to exceed air quality standards, emission controls required, such as installing air monitors, testing cars, and other actions expensive to implement
- ▶ TDEC able to reduce Roane County “non-attainment” to one spot – Kingston Fossil Plant
- ▶ Recent news indicates Knox area air quality improving, but continued awareness is required; Blount County failed 2 years ago.

Air Quality Issues (cont'd.)

- ▶ East Roane Industrial Park off I-40 near 360 mile marker – particular concern with two major truck facilities; idling trucks increase CO₂ air emissions
- ▶ Possible additional truck stop – may become major resident of this same industrial park
- ▶ RCERB – would like to be a partner with the Industrial Board when bringing in industry to promote awareness of possible environmental issues, so planning can be more effective

Plateau Park – Cumberland, Co.

- ▶ Roane County has one of the few public-owned treatment works (POTW)/wastewater treatment plants in the state
- ▶ Plateau Park – Connect to Roane County POTW?
- ▶ Impact to Roane County – costs of additional capacity, construction to run pipeline, and operation to stay in regulatory compliance
- ▶ Plateau Park effluents dependent on resident tenants/industries
- ▶ Potential for Roane County to receive unwanted effluents; fines from the State could result.

Plateau Park (cont'd.)

- ▶ Industrial Development Board – including Roane/Morgan/Cumberland counties need to evaluate the feasibility of and potential impacts of various industries coming into Plateau Park
- ▶ Potential Site Tenants – need review as to types of wastes generated and if current Roane County POTW can handle

Tiger Haven

- ▶ Possible new area of focus
- ▶ Interface with TWRA and other state regulators
- ▶ Look at disposal of cat waste (feces and urine)
- ▶ Review regulations of cat waste disposal
- ▶ Review transportation of cat wastes over roads

RCERB Recent History

- ▶ 1989 – Established by Resolution #1975
- ▶ August 2007 – After being inactive a number of years, re-activated by Resolution #08-07-04, increasing membership to eight (8) general members and one (1) student member
- ▶ Additional Resolutions since 2007 to clarify creation, purpose, and membership terms
- ▶ 2015 – planned revision of By-Laws to update language, no major intent changes anticipated