
Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee (ORRHES)

Historical Document

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The Oak Ridge Reservation Health Effects Subcommittee (ORRHES) was established in 1999 by Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of ORRHES was to give advice and recommendations about off-site public health activities and research conducted by ATSDR and CDC at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation, in Tennessee. Further, this subcommittee provided a public forum for communication and collaborations between the citizens and agencies that evaluated public health issues and conducted public health activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation.

The ORRHES accomplished the following:

- Served as a citizen advisory group to CDC and ATSDR and gave recommendations on public health activities and research at the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- Allowed citizens to communicate with agency staff members and learn more about the public health assessment process and other public health activities.
- Provided input in developing ATSDR's public health assessments and other public health activities which included
 - presentations by national experts
 - technical workshops
 - evaluations and critiques of scientific issues
- Helped to prioritize public health issues and community concerns reviewed by ATSDR.

In [Appendix A \(bylaws_appendix_A.html\)](#) of the [By-laws \(bylaws.html\)](#), you can find more information about the Subcommittee's:

- purpose
- history
- organizational structure
- membership
- roles and responsibilities

Oak Ridge Reservation: Environmental and Occupational Medical Resources Fact Sheet

The [fact sheet \(env_med_res.html\)](#), prepared by the ORRHES, is on available medical resources to provide guidance to persons seeking medical assistance for an environmentally or occupationally related illness or injury.

ORRHES Subcommittee Activities

The ORRHES Subcommittee engaged in a number of activities to support its public health mission. Some of these activities included holding public meetings and establishing work groups as follows:

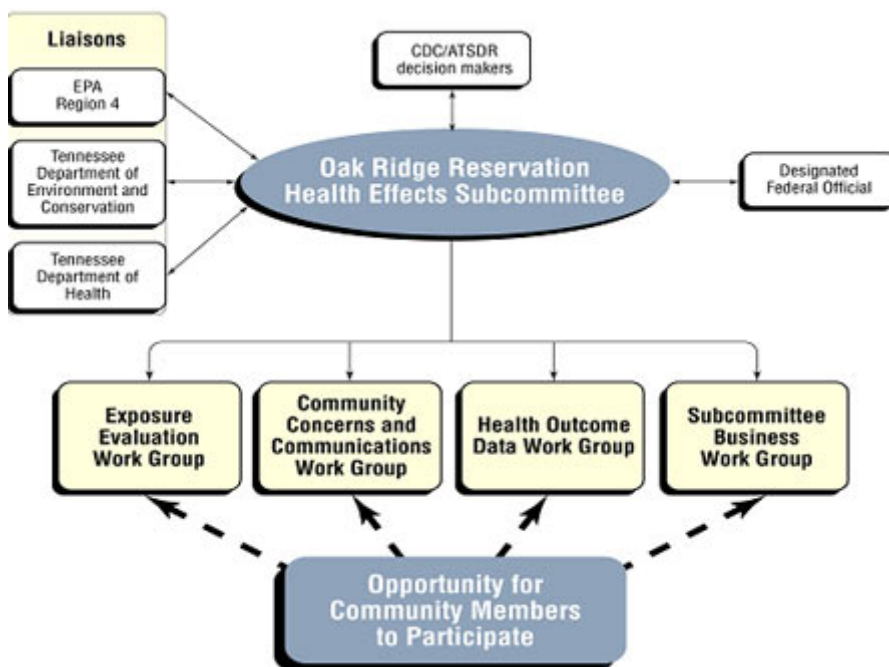
Public Meetings

The members of the subcommittee sought to involve and talk to with those who were interested in and affected by ATSDR and CDC public health activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation. The ORRHES Subcommittee also encouraged the public to provide input to the federal agencies and to learn about public health activities at the Oak Ridge Reservation.

ORRHES created a series of formal programs to inform and have meaningful conversations with the public in the affected communities. The ORRHES held 26 public meetings in the Oak Ridge area from 2000-2005. The [minutes \(orrhес subcommittee minutes.html\)](#) of the ORRHES are available for review.

ORRHES Organizational Structure

The figure below graphically demonstrates opportunities community members had to participate in ORRHES meetings.



Work Groups

The ORRHES created workgroups in the ATSDR Oak Ridge Field Office in Oak Ridge, TN to fulfill its mission for providing advice and recommendations to ATSDR on public health activities in critical areas. To help ensure participation, the meetings of the subcommittee's work groups were open to the public.

ATSDR scientists presented detailed technical data and information on the public health assessments at the work group meetings. Between 2000-2005, ORRHES work groups met more than 125 times. The [minutes\(orrhес_subcommittee_minutes.html\)](#) of work group meetings are available for review.

About ORRHES

- **[ORRHES Mission Statement](#)** ([orrhес_vision_mission_goals.html](#))
- ORRHES supplied ATSDR and CDC with advice about public health studies and activities about people who may have been exposed to radioactive and chemical emissions from the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- **[ORRHES Fact Sheet](#)** ([orrhес_factsheet.html](#))
This fact sheet is a summary of the ORRHES subcommittee. The fact sheet answers questions about ATSDR's involvement in Oak Ridge, and defines the nature of a public health assessment.
- **[Meet the ORRHES Members](#)** ([orrhес_members.html](#))

CDC and ATSDR requested nominations for the ORRHES and selected members based on citizen input. CDC and ATSDR then selected the members according to the rules governing the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The ORRHES included individuals with different backgrounds, interests, and expertise. The members received appointments for a four-year term, and consisted of 21 members and [liaison members](#) ([liasons.html](#)).

Page last reviewed: January 20, 2012
Page last updated: January 20, 2012
Content source: [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#)

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 4770 Buford Hwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30341
Contact CDC: 800-232-4636 / TTY: 888-232-6348

