

WM2012 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 16: US DOE Asset Revitalization Initiative

Co-Chairs: Tania Smith, *US DOE*
JT Howell, *US DOE*

Panel Reporter: Cathy Hickey, *CH2M Hill*

Panelists:

1. Tania Smith, *US DOE, Headquarters*
2. JT Howell, *US DOE, Oak Ridge Operations*
3. Jeff Deardorff, *Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET)*
4. Helen Belencan, *US DOE, Savannah River Site*

More than 60 people attended this session that focused on DOE's Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI). The session opened with each of the 4 panelists giving a 15-20 minute overview in the form of PowerPoint presentations from DOE Headquarters, Field Office and community perspectives. The audience asked the speakers questions by stepping to the microphone (8 questions received).

The following summary includes excerpts from the Panel Presentations:

The Panel focused on the creation and implementation of DOE's Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI) Program.

Tania Smith kicked off the session with a 15 minute presentation which communicated that the primary focus of the ARI program was to support the Department in the areas of EM's accelerated footprint reduction and facilitation of NNSA's modernization through infrastructure reduction. The ARI program also includes conducting a quadrennial technology review and a "Green to Government" sustainability effort. Ms. Smith stressed the need to revitalize partnership with non-federal entities including the Community Reuse Organizations (CRO's) and Community Economic Development entities.

JT Howell shared the vision for the implementation of the ARI Initiative at DOE's East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) and cited success achieved through the ETTP Reindustrialization Program that was implemented 15 years ago. He stressed that the successes, to date, have been achieved through identification of solutions through partnerships with the City of Oak Ridge and CROET. This program, has established business honed over 15-years of experience that has resulted in a mature program, rich with lessons learned that will serve as a "spring-board" for the ARI Program. To date, significant reductions in cleanup and mortgage costs have been achieved, resulting in the transfer of over 700 acres and numerous buildings.

Jeff Deardorff provided six examples of successes with associated challenges using a developer's perspective including capital investments required for facility and land upgrades once transfer is achieved. He highlighted that CROET manages the Oak Ridge Science & Technology Park, the only private facility located on the premises of a National Laboratory.

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Helen Belencan presented an overview of *Enterprise SRS* stressing that current missions conducted at the Savannah River Site are vital to the Nation. She explained that SRS is working with the private sector to secure lease arrangements for the private sector or community enterprise. She stated that SRS plans to leverage the SRS National Laboratory to create an enduring, high-impact site. One example of how this will be achieved is through the reuse of assets in partnership with the SRS CRO. SRS is in the process of creating a through list of available assets.

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