

WM2015 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 020: Beyond DOE Cleanup Panel

Session Co-Chairs: **Susan Cange**, *US DOE*
Jenny Freeman, *Strata-G*

Panel Reporter: **Cathey Hickey**, *CH2M HILL*

Panelists:

- **Susan Cange**, *Manager, US DOE, OREM*
- **Carmelo Melendez**, *Director, Office of Property Management, US DOE HQ*
- **Ralph Conner**, *Director of Utilization Division, US GSA, Office of Real Property Utilization*
- **Dave Adler**, *Project Manager, Reindustrialization, US DOE OREM;*
- **Stacy Charboneau**, *Manager, US DOE, RL*

This panel shared innovative cleanup approaches, as well as important lessons learned, associated with safely performing work in an era of declining budgets, increased requirements and greater transparency while achieving site transformation initiatives that will benefit DOE host communities well beyond the DOE completing its cleanup missions across the complex. Panelists from the Hanford and Oak Ridge sites shared best practices in successful partnering, planning and collaboration with the workforce, the regulators and the community to achieve cost-effective remediation, and enabling site revitalization. The panelists also provided discussions and perspectives from the DOE Office of Property Management and the US GSA Real Property Utilization. Additionally this panel focused on former Manhattan era sites and their transformation enabling both historic preservation and site reuse initiatives. Approximately, 50 people attended the session.

Susan Cange, Manager, US DOE, OREM started the panel by providing a summary overview of the DOE innovative cleanup and site revitalization approaches and processes followed by an introduction of each panelist.

Carmelo Melendez, Director, Office of Property Management, US DOE HQ provided an overview of the DOE process to successfully transfer property including initiatives underway to streamline the transfer process. Mr. Melendez shared with the audience the importance of the DOE Field Offices forming a collaborative relationship with DOE Headquarters to enable success in the transfer process. He stressed that early notification, involvement and understanding of the sites intent for property transfer will allow effective prioritization by all parties involved.

Ralph Conner, Director of Utilization Division, US GSA, Office of Real Property Utilization provided a presentation on DOE's partnership with the US GSA in the transfer of assets that are declared "undisturbed" property as they seek to obtain fair market value on the sale of the property. While the Community Reuse Organizations typically receive "formerly disturbed" and remediated property in accordance with each site's Record of Decision on cleanup and transfer requirements, DOE is still encouraged to use the GSA process to transfer assets as practicable.

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Mr. Conner provided the audience with several examples of successful and beneficial asset transfer through GSA.

Dave Adler, Project Manager, Reindustrialization, US DOE OREM provided an overview of the reindustrialization efforts that have been underway for more than 19 years at the DOE East Tennessee Technology Park. As DOE remediates property, they immediately transfer the assets using both the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee (CROET) and the General Service Administration (GSA) and have achieved the transfer of more than 700 acres, to date. Additionally, Mr. Adler shared the importance of achieving land conservation in addition to land transfer for redevelopment, indicating that more than 3500 acres of land in and around the Oak Ridge Reservation are established greenways. Mr. Adler provided many site reuse initiatives underway in collaboration with the City of Oak Ridge that indicate a cost effective site cleanup coupled with a diversified site reuse strategy.

Stacy Charboneau, Manager, US DOE, RL provided an update of the reuse initiatives underway at the DOE Hanford Reservation. Ms. Charboneau focused on the Hanford site being part of the new Manhattan National Park and the importance on preserving the sites history providing an overview of the significance that the Hanford Site in the production of materials necessary to secure peace during the Manhattan Project. Moreover, the Hanford site has Tribal Nations among the numerous other site stakeholders that furthermore contribute to the significance of the successful site cleanup, reuse and preservation of the land.