

## WM2016 Conference Panel Report

**PANEL SESSION 32:**        **Partnering for Success**

**Co-chairs:**                **Susan Cange, US DOE**  
                                     **Betsy Child, Restoration Services, Inc.**

**Panel Reporter:**         **Ray Parrish, Restoration Services, Inc.**

### Panelists:

1. **Jenny Freeman**, *Visualization Manager, Strata-G*
2. **Kenneth Rueter**, *President, URS | CH2M Oak Ridge LLC*
3. **Michael Thompson**, *President, Atomic Trades & Labor Council*
4. **Shari Meghreblian**, *Deputy Commissioner, TN Department of Environment & Conservation*
5. **David Hemelright**, *Secretary, Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board*

This session explored the diverse *partnerships* that DOE's Oak Ridge Environmental Management program (OREM) has established to ensure the success of its program. These partnerships include community stakeholders, the prime contractor, labor unions, and regulators. Each partner in the "Oak Ridge Partnership" requires a different pathway of communication; but ultimately, all the partners must work together with OREM to move forward with one voice. This panel explored what tools are needed to accomplish this goal, and how partners develop trust.

### **Summary of Presentations**

**Susan Cange** began the day by introducing Oak Ridge as the featured site for the day at the conference. She gave an overview of the DOE-Environmental Management projects in Oak Ridge and the vision for cleanup activities in Oak Ridge.

**Jenny Freeman** outlined many of the community efforts in place to help support the ongoing cleanup mission in Oak Ridge. The Oak Ridge community's future is dependent and tied to the success of cleanup of legacy facilities at the federal sites. The Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership looks to promote initiatives that support the cleanup mission in Oak Ridge, as well as focusing on safety for the thousands of workers in the community who perform hazardous work. The Oak Ridge Partnership holds budget roll-out events to inform the community of Environmental Management plans for the year. The Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association holds events to educate the subcontracting community.

**Ken Rueter** discussed the perspective of the DOE contractor in relation to partnering. The first thing that partnerships should promote is safety. UCOR has accomplished numerous safety achievements due to the commitment of all partners. UCOR is committed to involving all partners to support success for all parties. UCOR has achieved great success, specifically starting on the final building demolition of the five gaseous diffusion building located at East Tennessee Technology Park. Project completion leads to mission growth and major community benefits. Partnerships capitalize on everyone's resources and capabilities, leading to success for all.

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**Michael Thompson** of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council discussed the role of his labor union in Partnering for Success in Oak Ridge. ATLC represents over 2,200 workers in Oak Ridge. Working perform complex, high-hazard work across Y-12, ORNL, and ETTP. ATLC is committed to working with contractors to make sure their workers are provided a safe work environment. ATLC has been in Oak Ridge since the town began during WWII, and will continue to work on the future major projects. Additionally, ATLC is committed expanded the skills in knowledge of their work force, providing numerous opportunities for growth.

**Sheri Meghreblian** provided the perspective of a state regulator. Oak Ridge has been successful in leveraging partnerships for success. And the State of Tennessee is committed to partnership. Cleanup work continues successfully, facilitating current and future economic development. The key to success through partnering is developing trust. Healthy debate is OK in dispute resolution, but bringing all parties to the table is key. It is also key to work towards agreements that allow for decisions to be made at the operational level, trusting workers in the field. Tools needed for collaborative partnership include: maintain frequent and open communication at all levels; cultivate relationships on a personal level; involve subject matter experts to resolve technical issues; implement changes that strengthen collaboration; actively build trust; collaborate to improve steady funding; succession planning; and the continuation of regulatory oversight.

**David Hemelright** spoke on the role the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) plays in the Oak Ridge community. The SSAB serves as a link between the public and DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management. The group holds monthly meetings, provides recommendations to DOE, and has public meetings to discuss ongoing issues. The SSAB engages in environmental management, waste management, and stewardship, as well as historic preservation efforts.

### Question and Answer

An individual asked where, online, he could locate the Oak Ridge Environmental Management Vision Statement. **Susan Cange** responded, giving him the location at [www.energy.gov/orem](http://www.energy.gov/orem).

**David Hemelright** was asked to expand on the Site Specific Advisory Board having students on the board. The board currently has a student from Oak Ridge High School and Hardin Valley High School in Knoxville, TN. The students are in honors science classes. The students are very engaged on the board. One student recently started a Facebook page to better help engage the community.

**Mike Thompson** responded to a question regarding communication with management. He explained the importance of both sides communicating both the good and the bad.