

***Friends of ORNL* Position Statements on Historic Preservation**

Background

The Integrated Facilities Disposition Program (IFDP) is a program that transfers contaminated and/or dilapidated facilities to U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management program for decontamination and decommissioning and demolition (D&D&D). There are many Manhattan Project- and Cold War-era facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) slated for D&D&D under IFDP. *Friends of ORNL* requested and was granted consulting status under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for actions that affect historically significant facilities at ORNL.

Most of the historically significant facilities at ORNL, known as the X-10 site during the Manhattan Project, are located in "Isotope Circle" in the 3000 area of ORNL. Of these, the Graphite Reactor has been preserved and opened for public tours. However, the remaining Manhattan Project-era buildings are in poor shape, and some have already been demolished.

FORNL and the individuals who maintain the ORNL History Room are interested and willing to assist DOE or its historic preservation contractor in coordinating the collection of oral histories, identification of significant facilities and artifacts, and interpretation of historic photographs.

Position Statements

Friends of ORNL has established the following positions with respect to historic preservation activities at ORNL:

- There are no buildings to be addressed under IFDP that should be saved for historic purposes.
- The buildings in Isotope Circle to be demolished should have their histories and scientific significances thoroughly documented as part of the IFDP. As of mid-2010, these documents are not complete for some buildings [e.g., Building 3026-C&D]).
- Color digital photographs of archival file type and size should be taken of all IFDP facilities as part of the historic documentation process. These photo files should be organized and stored on blue ray or similar damage resistant disks in duplicate. One medium resolution set retained for library access and a second high resolution set for long term historical reference.
- Tools, machinery, furniture, and other artifacts that would assist in understanding the role of X-10 during the Manhattan Project and the Cold War should be retrieved, preserved and stored for future display. DOE should commit to decontaminating these artifacts as needed.
- Assuming that the Lab has no plans to construct any new facilities on the Isotope Circle site, each former building location should be permanently marked with a sign that briefly explains its historic and scientific significance. A self-guided walking tour with a detailed guidebook and/or a portable audio narrative system should be developed for public use. In the event of redevelopment of the site, appropriate

commemoration of the Isotope Circle history should be incorporated into the new development.

- The interpretation of the Graphite Reactor should be upgraded to professional standards. Appropriate historical photos of the reactor operations should be printed for display to visitors providing a more complete understanding of the day to day operation. The adjoining display area should be improved to describe X-10's role in the Manhattan Project and subsequent missions in Oak Ridge.
- The history of ORNL's role in the post-war development of radioactive and stable isotopes for medicine, industry, and research should also be captured in displays at the Graphite Reactor and at the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE). Several of the key technical staff members at the time responsible for isotope use should be recognized.
- Reactor development has been a significant aspect of the lab's history. Although most of the experimental reactors have already been demolished, all ORNL nuclear reactors should be appropriately commemorated by displays either at the Graphite Reactor or at AMSE.
- Additional oral histories should be collected as soon as possible due to the aging and loss of the early X-10 workforce. Oral histories of X-10 veterans should include classified information, as much of this was integral to the history of the site. DOE should assign a Q-cleared historian to assist in this process. Classified oral histories should be reviewed periodically to determine if they are able to be declassified. Redacted oral histories should be made available to the general public at the Oak Ridge Public Library.
- DOE should recognize that current ORNL programs and activities will someday be of historical interest and should document them and preserve key equipment accordingly.