

**THE “VISIONING” PHASE  
OF THE COMMON GROUND PROCESS:  
INTERNAL AND INSTITUTIONAL VIEWS**

**TECHNICAL APPENDIX**

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Attachment 1. Questionnaire



## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This technical appendix supplements *The “Visioning” Phase of the Common Ground Process: Internal and Institutional Views* (June 1995). This part of the “visioning” phase of the Common Ground Process was an effort to gather selected internal and institutional stakeholders’ views concerning both the needs of the East Tennessee region and possible future uses of the Oak Ridge Reservation in the 21st century. It was conducted by the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Operations Office (DOE-ORO) and its contractor, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. (LMES). The University of Tennessee’s Energy, Environment, and Resources Center (UT) has provided analytical assistance to this effort.

The vehicle for obtaining these views was a questionnaire distributed to 90 senior DOE-ORO and LMES personnel and to 7 institutions in the Spring of 1995. (See Attachment 1.) Of these, 47 internal personnel and 2 institutions responded. *The “Visioning” Phase of the Common Ground Process: Internal and Institutional Views* summarizes close-ended responses for the entire questionnaire and lists open-ended comments for the last two pages of the questionnaire. The purpose of this technical appendix is to document other open-ended comments made by the internal respondents to the first two pages of the questionnaire. (Institutional respondents offered no open-ended comments.) Each question is presented individually, followed by a listing of the respondents’ open-ended comments.



## I. THE REGION

**Question 1** No open-ended comments

**Question 2** *Over the next 25 years, East Tennessee's single greatest need will be to sustain and improve:*

*its contribution to national missions*

*its equality of opportunity*

*its semi-rural landscape*

*its economy*

*its natural environment*

*other (please explain)*

**Comments in "other" category:**

- Planning efforts to yield paced and analyzed development on suitable property, allowing a mix of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreational, and open space uses.
- Economic growth balanced with conservation of natural resources.
- Its balance of economic development and enhancement/protection of natural environment.
- Its economy without compromising gains being made in environmental quality.

**Question 3** *Over the next 25 to 100 years, East Tennessee's single greatest need will be to sustain and improve:*

*its contribution to national missions*

*its equality of opportunity*

*its semi-rural landscape*

*its economy*

*its natural environment*

*other (please explain)*

**Comments in "other" category:**

- Its economy without compromising gains being made in environmental quality.
- Economic growth balanced with conservation of natural resources.
- Maintaining a viable economy while assuring protection of the natural environment.
- Its balance of economic development and enhancement/protection of natural environment, with balance as the key.

**Question 4** *In one or two sentences, please summarize your vision of what you would like East Tennessee to be like in the 21st century.*

**Comments:**

- To remain the beautiful area that it is, and to have a strong economic base for stability.
- I would hope that East Tennessee could serve as: 1. An example of ecologically sensitive development with local and state incentives (commercial and industrial development tax incentives) for developers who “set aside” and develop “greenway” areas, parks, and passive recreation areas, and preserve micro-habitats as part of an overall master plan for each area developed, 2. An example of a positively “reformed” sign pollution area/region, 3. An example of a positive and progressively environmentally remediated region (from the ORR to soils/mountain “cuts,” to strip mined areas).
- A well-rounded region capitalizing on technology benefits as applied to business and the environment.
- Balanced, planned economic and industrial growth combined with preservation of natural environment. Also, should perform risk-based, cost-effective cleanup of the ORR.
- East Tennessee should be an area where people want to live and work because of its strong economy and preserved natural environment.
- Center for material and environmental technology development.
- Similar to the current mixture of industry, technology, rural, and urban activities. I don’t think this mix should change significantly.
- A semi-rural area, housing a national laboratory that makes significant contribution to the nation and the world in the fields of sustainable development.
- Should continue to maintain at a minimum, and expand DOE’s presence in area. Establish an East Tennessee “silicon valley.”
- A region which has weaned itself of the government teat and has established its own private economy; has re-established the inherent visual beauty of the place by eliminating billboards, Pigeon Forge, and similar blight; and has established an orderly, workable plan for population growth while preserving the environment.
- An economically viable area, in harmony with the natural environment.
- Tennessee will maintain a healthy economy without compromising current and future gains in the quality of life (e.g., continued improvements in the quality of the environment).

- A functional mix of open space with adequate environmental protection and management, planned (i.e., zoned) residential development on adequately-sized lots (enabling sufficient drainage, percolation rates, etc.), a variety of economic opportunities for a varied skill level, and overall effective and integrated planning to facilitate managed growth that considers economic and environmental factors (hopefully minimizing the haphazard development/infrastructure patterns that presently exist).
- Enhance the diversity of landscapes by developing more park lands, greenways and limiting residential development in rural areas to very low densities (less than one dwelling per 1-2 acres).
- East Tennessee should be a primarily rural area with localized small and medium sized population centers containing employment opportunities. It would be a place where individuals maintain their individuality, the richness of their culture (whatever it may include) and are able to enjoy the fellowship of their small communities.
- Prosperous while maintaining its natural beauty.
- East Tennessee should continue to be a land of natural beauty and protected ecology with a balance of economic development by high tech industries.
- A place where people can breath clean air and drink clean water. Where my children's children, etc. can live in a healthy manner. Where we have demonstrated that humans can exist with other parts of the natural environment without depleting the resources.
- Well-educated and highly literate population. The counties and cities will finally embrace land use planning, zoning, environmental protection, and sustainable economic development. The industrial and business base will be diverse, will include a very large number of individual businesses, and will be "clean" (i.e., generation of pollutants and waste reduced to the minimum possible). The region will contain many large parks, forests, and similar reserves and such an area will be within 10-15 miles of each resident. Farms will still exist and will have diversified from a forced reliance on tobacco and cattle to new products that will supply local and regional markets.
- A strong economy, contributing to national missions, should be built and sustained in harmony with residents' desires for environmental quality.
- A center for research and development activities, similar to that of the Research Triangle in Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, N.C.
- An area of high quality jobs, with good schools, in an environment that's semi-rural with pockets of high-tech installation separated by natural environmental areas.
- Educational, research and commerce center for southeastern United States. Lots of partnering of community leaders in these areas to make things happen for East Tennessee, minimizing provincialism that hampers "big" successes.
- A combination semi-rural and industrial area providing an economy that supports both the nation and the people of the area.
- Maintaining its environment and remembering its cultural heritage. I would like it to be a center for high-technology business.

- 1. Not dependent on government (DOE, TVA) presence. 2. Aggressive industrial development.
- Recognized for national contributions and impact, be the area for development of new enterprises, and retain those aspects of high quality of life that will attract appropriate new businesses and their employees.
- A region with a thriving economy which has managed to balance economic development with environmental preservation so that it is a desirable location to live and work.
- Safe, environmentally sound, economically thriving area, where high tech and manufacturing companies want to locate.
- An area known for being a place to raise a family with high paying jobs and a well above average education level.
- Semi-rural landscape maintained, with increasing commercial and government economic base. This will require aggressive, innovative land management strategies to accomplish both an increase in industry and a maintenance of existing landscape.
- Preserved open space with free access to natural areas for all citizens. Greater emphasis on land use planning.
- A highly innovative, respected research area with good jobs, excellent quality of life, and stable workforce.
- I would like to see East Tennessee's economy grow, new industries built, and yet I would like to see the environment protected in the process. I want my children and grandchildren to have good job opportunities in the 21st century.
- Population less than or equal to 100,000. High tech industry base. Planned community.
- An area of economic opportunity with good schools and a clean environment.
- A technically sophisticated region with continued natural beauty, access to important resources such as power, water, and telecommunications, and with continuing commitment to the natural environment.
- High employment in value added jobs.

## II. OAK RIDGE RESERVATION

**Question 1** *To help achieve your vision for East Tennessee, how should ORR land be used in the coming decades? (For each land use category, please indicate whether it should be a high (H), medium (M), or low (L) priority at ORR.)*

*commercial and industrial development*  
*residential uses*  
*recreational uses*  
*uses specially intended to protect ORR's natural environment*  
*uses for DOE missions*  
*uses for other federal or state government missions*  
*other (please explain)*

**Comments in “other” category:**

- Concentrate development around existing developed areas. Maintain core natural areas (National Environmental Research Park).
- Uses for environmental and ecological research and educational opportunities.
- Ecological and environmental research.
- Increased visitation to historical sites.

**Question 2** *Over the next 25 years, what is the single most important type of use of ORR land? (Please pick one.)*

*commercial and industrial development*  
*residential uses*  
*recreational uses*  
*uses specially intended to protect ORR's natural environment*  
*uses for DOE missions*  
*uses for other federal or state government missions*  
*other (please explain)*

**Comments in “other” category:**

- Uses that promote environmental and ecological research and educational opportunities.
- Balanced commercial and industrial development and preservation of core natural areas.
- Uses for federal or state missions that are protective of the environment and allow for managed private land uses.

**Question 3** *Over the next 25 to 100 years, what is the single most important type of use of ORR land? (Please pick one.)*

- commercial and industrial development*
- residential uses*
- recreational uses*
- uses specially intended to protect ORR's natural environment*
- uses for DOE missions*
- uses for other federal or state government missions*
- other (please explain)*

**Comments in "other" category:**

- Uses for federal or state missions that are protective of the environment and allow for managed private land uses.
- Balanced commercial and industrial development and preservation of core natural areas.
- Its economy and natural environment.
- Uses that promote environmental and ecological research and educational opportunities.

**Question 4** *In responding to the following five questions regarding possible DOE missions at ORR, please check yes or no, but provide a brief comment or qualification if desired.*

*(a) Should ORR continue to serve non-defense missions? yes no*

**Comments:**

- [yes]\*Opportunities exist for interagency research and educational

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- [yes] To improve the economy base of East Tennessee.
- [yes] But not waste storage.
- [yes] We need diversity.
- [yes] ORNL is an important national resource.

**(b) Should ORR continue to serve non-nuclear defense missions? yes no**

**Comments:**

- [yes] If appropriate to the available facilities.
- [yes] A need to serve as a base for future energy research needs, etc.
- [yes] But not to the total exclusion of nuclear programs.
- [yes] But should over-emphasize.
- [yes] Unique capabilities for manufacturing and research are important to national defense

**(c) If DOE is involved in nuclear weapons production in the future, should ORR be part of this mission? yes no**

**Comments:**

- [yes] We have the expertise, however, the waste generated is a problem.
- [yes] Look at world history, a strong defense provides for a safe and secure country.
- [yes] This is the most cost efficient alternative to provide for a nuclear deterrent.
- [yes] Y-12, in combination with K-25 and X-10, has the managerial and technical capabilities to perform weapons production.

**(d) Should ORR continue to serve as a national center for R&D in environmental cleanup and waste management technologies? yes no**

**Comments:**

- [yes] Significant contributions are derived from cleanup research at Oak Ridge.

**(e) Should ORR accept nuclear materials and waste from other DOE sites? yes no**

**Comments:**

- [yes] Yes to materials (e.g., storage at Y-12), no to waste -- ORR is not

- well-suited for large volume of materials.
- [no response indicated] Only if these activities are absolutely not possible at their site of origin.
  - [yes] Only under circumstances which demonstrate: bringing to ORR is clear, absolute best alternative, significant advantage to ORR to do so.
  - [yes] Waste is questionable -- legal issues here.
  - [yes] ORR has the technical capabilities to safely manage other DOE waste.
  - [no] There's plenty of room in Nevada for that.
  - [yes] With restrictions on type and volume.
  - [yes] If it does not damage the environment.
  - [yes] But only if technology is employed to reduce/eliminate these wastes. The waste should not be only stockpiled here!
  - [no] NO!
  - [yes] Yes to nuclear materials. Waste I have some reservations.

- [yes] Only if in stable form and carefully stored. Any option that has a reasonable expectation of contaminant migration should not be considered. For example, vitrification or proper concrete stabilization seems appropriate for consideration.
- [yes] We have the tech-base that knows how to handle safely.
- [yes] Nuclear materials storage is a long standing and well executed mission and the least cost alternative for uranium storage for DOE.
- [no] The sparsely populated west is more appropriate for DOE waste/storage disposal.
- [yes] But define the conditions, limits, and benefits.