

DOE Oak Ridge Operations managers

As the last few articles have shown, the period immediately following the end of World War II was one of constant and continuing change for Oak Ridge. The contractor changes settled down after all three sites came under Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company.

The Atomic Energy Commission, although headquartered in Washington, DC, continued to manage much of the atomic energy activities through the Oak Ridge office. By the early 1950's five important area offices were managed by the Oak Ridge Field Office.

These area offices were: St. Louis, 1942, to refine uranium ore; New Brunswick, 1949, to provide quality control for materials; Paducah, 1951, to separate uranium using gaseous diffusion; Fernald, 1951, to convert high grade raw uranium ore to useable compounds; Portsmouth, 1952, to separate uranium using gaseous diffusion; and the continuing presence in Oak Ridge, 1942, to produce uranium 235, support weapons production, and basic scientific research.

Additional responsibilities have been placed on the federal offices in Oak Ridge during the years. It can be said, if the Department of Energy does anything, Oak Ridge is a part of it. Other locations have been added and offices established to manage processes and facilities ranging from nuclear reactor fuel processing to training and scientific research.

The name of the agency has changed from the Atomic Energy Commission (1947 – 1974), to the Energy Research and Development Administration (1974 – 1977), and finally to the Department of Energy, formed August 4, 1977. The DOE now has the primary leadership role in our nation's overall energy needs, basic research in many related areas and disciplines as well as maintaining the nation's nuclear weapons.

The name of the Oak Ridge office has changed as well. Over the years, the Oak Ridge Field Office and now known as Oak Ridge Operations has continued to have a substantial presence in Oak Ridge. The DOE/NNSA in Oak Ridge, with over 12,000 federal and contractor employees at present is the fourth largest employer in the state.

The managers of the Oak Ridge Field Office and now Oak Ridge Operations have been:

John C. Franklin, 1947–1948;
Richard W. Cook, 1949–1950;
Samuel R. Sapirie, 1951–1971;
Robert J. Hart, 1972–1982;
Joe LaGrone, 1983–1994;
James C. Hall, 1995–1998;
Leah Dever, 1999–2001;
Michael D. Holland, 2002;
Gerald Boyd, 2003–present.