



For Immediate Release

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Demolition of ETPP's largest remaining structure begins

Oak Ridge, Tenn. – February 12, 2019—Demolition of the largest facility still standing at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP) is underway. Workers began tearing down Building K-1037 at the former uranium enrichment complex earlier this week.

“Removing the largest remaining building at ETPP radically changes the skyline, and it moves us forward in our efforts to complete all major demolition next year,” said Jay Mullis, manager of the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM). “When we complete this project, the building’s footprint will be a grassy area that will be available for reuse and redevelopment by the private sector.”

OREM and UCOR, an AECOM-led partnership with Jacobs, have spent the past several months deactivating the facility to prepare it for demolition—removing equipment and waste, performing asbestos abatement, and disconnecting utilities. The demolition is expected to be completed later this year.

The original structure was built in 1945. Through the years, additions to the facility brought its square footage to approximately 380,000 square feet.

As one of earliest structures at the site, Building K-1037 was originally a warehouse, but it was later used to produce barrier material used in the gaseous diffusion process until 1982. In 1991, the high bay areas of the facility were remodeled to develop the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation Product Conversion Demonstration Facility, a new form of uranium enrichment technology.

Uranium enrichment operations ceased at the site in the mid-1980s, when it was known as the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Since then, OREM has taken down more than 400 facilities and transferred nearly 1,300 acres from government ownership in its goal to convert the site into a privately-owned and operated industrial park known as ETPP.

OREM is working to complete all major building demolitions at ETPP by the end of next year— a goal known as Vision 2020. The area also boasts a 3,000-acre conservation easement, and work is underway to open the K-25 History Center later this year that preserves and shares the site’s rich history and role during World War II’s Manhattan Project.

“Since UCOR took over the ETPP cleanup contract in 2011, we have seen significant changes throughout the site as numerous facilities have been demolished and privatization efforts move forward,” said Ken Rueter, UCOR President and Chief Executive Officer. “Demolition of K-1037 will be another milestone that significantly advances us toward completing cleanup and transformation of the site.”

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