

**For Immediate Release**

Contact:  
Chris Caldwell  
Christopher.Caldwell@orcc.doe.gov  
(804) 658-8367

## **UCOR's Perkes awarded DOE VPP Contractor Champions Award**

**Oak Ridge, Tennessee, August 30, 2024** — Another United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR) safety professional has been recognized nationally for outstanding performance and commitment to the company's safety culture. The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) presented Tom Perkes, UCOR's sustainability project manager, with the Contractor Champions Award at the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association's 2024 Safety+ Symposium in Colorado.

The award recognized Perkes outstanding level of performance in meeting established safety and health goals, actively conducting outreach to others, and supporting the company's achievement of an injury and illness rate significantly below the average of similar businesses and operations.

Perkes' outstanding leadership, communication, and project management skills during this year's VPP triennial evaluation enabled UCOR to be recertified as a DOE Star Site. Through his organization and scheduling skills, Perkes effectively aligned and communicated team schedules. His high-energy, yet approachable, personality easily allows for conversations about the DOE VPP benefits.

"As a former European professional basketball player, Tom is the epitome of a team player and VPP Ambassador," said Michelle Keever, UCOR Safety and Health Program Specialist. "His talents and passion are evident in the workplace and the community."

UCOR is the DOE Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management's lead environmental cleanup contractor. The company's 2,200+ workers are dedicated to safely reducing environmental risk on the Oak Ridge Reservation while helping DOE's Office of Science and the National Nuclear Security Administration continue their important missions. Learn more about the company at [UCOR.com](http://UCOR.com).

**-end-**

UCOR NR 2024-08

Photo: Perkes VPP award.jpg

Caption: DOE Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health, Alfred Taylor, presents UCOR's Tom Perkes with the VPP Contractor Champions Award.