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DOE'S MANSEL WINS POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARDS

OAK RIDGE, TN -- Wendell Mansel of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge Offices (ORO) has received two awards for an innovative approach to environmental restoration work at DOE's Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant.

Mansel, a Facility Representative at the East Tennessee Technology Park, and former program manager for the Y-12 Upper East Fork Poplar Creek Watershed, won both the 1998 Oak Ridge Offices Pollution Prevention award, and DOE's National Pollution Prevention award, which he received at a recent ceremony in Seattle, Washington.

The awards were for work done on the Chestnut Ridge Filled Coal Ash Pond Project. The project team had to stabilize runoff from a pond at Y-12 that had filled with solid waste from the Plant's steam plant operations. The pond was overflowing its dam, carrying coal ash downstream and threatening the stability of the dam itself.

"We were able to develop a system that requires minimum maintenance and operational costs, saving \$650,000 per year over conventional waste water treatment systems," said Mansel.

Under Mansel's guidance, the project team developed a passive treatment system, using limestone gravel, a riprap bed and a settling basin. That dam itself was strengthened, and existing wetlands at the base of the dam were moved downstream to improve collection and immobilization of the contaminants. The DOE awards were based on the significant reduction in the volume of waste by using natural systems.

The reduction of pollutants, reuse and recycling of materials, and reduction of radioactive, mixed, hazardous, and sanitary waste through pollution prevention is an integral part of the Department's Environmental Management Program in Oak Ridge and at other DOE sites throughout the nation.

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