



Workers sort through legacy items inside the Alpha-4 building to prepare for the facility's deactivation at Oak Ridge's Y-12 National Security Complex. (Photo: DOE)

OAK RIDGE

Worker's insight leads to \$16M in project savings

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management said it was insight and a questioning attitude from a project manager that led the Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) to accelerate the demolition of the Alpha-4 building at Oak Ridge's Y-12 National Security Complex, helping avoid millions of dollars in costs to taxpayers.

Brian Hutson, an employee of OREM contractor United Cleanup Oak Ridge (UCOR), believed efficiencies could be found in clearing all classified equipment and systems from the facility—a necessary step to get the Manhattan Project-era building ready for demolition. Initial estimates identified nearly 3,000 items requiring special removal, which would take 4.5 years and cost \$66 million.

"Our projects at Y-12 are incredibly complex due to the size, condition, and contents of the facilities we're taking down," said Morgan Carden, OREM's Y-12 federal project manager. "Brian is an excellent example of what's possible through a willingness to ask questions, challenge

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