

Graham, Donna
Cincinnati, OH
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Hartman, Gary S

From: jpic [sjbpic@franciscan.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2001 2:19 PM
To: Y12EIS
Subject: Oak Ridge

Dear Mr. Hartman,

I am writing to express concern about your plans to build a new "National Security Complex" in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I find this appalling. At this time in history there is a movement to decrease nuclear weapons and find peaceful ways to settle disputes rather than turning to warfare.

Russia has ratified the START 2 Treaty and its President has called for even deeper cuts in the arsenal than the negotiated START 3 target levels. The building of new nuclear weapons undermines US nonproliferation policy and could encourage other countries to follow suit.

Nuclear warfare impacts the environment in serious ways. In periods of heavy rainfall, mercury releases from Y-12 exceed legal limits whether the plant is operating or not. And then, of course, there is the issue of spending \$4 billion on a new bomb plant when people in our country and around the world have basic human needs not being met.

There is no longer a national security concern that justifies building more nuclear weapons, and the negative effects of this action are far-reaching. It is not in the best interests of the citizens of our country or of the world to build the proposed facility. We ask that the U.S. use the \$4 billion to clothe, feed, and house people rather than to kill, maim or sicken them.

Sincerely,
Donna Graham, OSF
Franciscan Justice and Peace Office
Cincinnati, OH
sjbpic@franciscan.org <mailto:sjbpic@franciscan.org>

1/16

2/05

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(cont.)

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

There is no plan or proposal to build a new bomb plant in the Y-12 SWEIS.

Parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty agree not to directly or indirectly transfer nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over them to any recipient; and not to in any way assist, encourage, or induce nonnuclear weapon states to manufacture or alter use, or acquire nuclear weapons, or alter nuclear explosive devices or control over them. Continuation of the Y-12 mission, and construction and operation of a HEU Materials Facility or Special Materials Complex by the United States does not conflict with such an agreement. The proposed action, which includes continuing weapons dismantlement activities at Y-12, fully supports the goals of Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, in which signatory nations agree to work toward total disarmament.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has significantly reduced the size of the nuclear weapons stockpile, and DOE has dismantled more than 15,000 nuclear weapons. At the present time, the United States is further downsizing the nuclear weapons stockpile consistent with the terms of the START I and the recently ratified START II. While future arms control reductions may change requirements for maintaining the weapons stockpile, DOE is responsible for meeting the current requirements set forth by the President and Congress in the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Memorandum, which is updated annually. Discussion of alternative uses of the Nation's funds is beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 05

DOE believes that it has adequately addressed impacts to the environment that could result from implementing the proposed action and alternatives in the Y-12 SWEIS. The release of mercury from the Y-12 Site storm sewers has been a problem in the past. However, corrective actions, such as storm sewer cleaning and relining and

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Comment No. 2 (cont.)

Issue Code: 05

mercury source removals, conducted since 1985 have greatly reduced releases of mercury from former mercury-use facilities. The Y-12 National Security Complex has an Integrated Mercury Strategy Program to achieve compliance with regulations and guidance addressing mercury contamination in EFPC. A description of mercury releases at Y-12 is provided in Appendix D, Section D.3.7.1. Effects of mercury in the environment at Y-12 are also described and reported in the ORR Annual Site Environmental Report. The discussion of mercury contamination in the environment at Y-12 is contained in Chapter 4, Section 4.5, Hydrology and Section 4.7, Air Quality of the SWEIS.