

Hablas, Anne
Jacksboro, TN
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2151 West Central Avenue
Jacksboro TN 37757
February 21, 2001

Gary Hartman
U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations, DP-80
PO Box 2001
Oak Ridge TN 37831

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing to express my opposition to the building of a new bomb plant in Oak Ridge, both from a faith perspective and also because such a project would violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

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I believe in the sacredness of human beings and of the entire universe. The production of nuclear weapons, weapons of indiscriminate destruction, is incompatible with my religious convictions.

I work for the Catholic Diocese of Knoxville in the Office of Justice-Peace-Integrity of Creation. For many years the Catholic Church has spoken against nuclear weapons. In 1981 during his visit to Hiroshima Pope John Paul II said:

To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace...On this very spot where 35 years ago the life of so many people was snuffed out in one fiery moment, I wish to appeal to the whole world on behalf of life, on behalf of humanity, on behalf of the future...let us promise our fellow human beings that we will work untiringly for disarmament and the banishing of all nuclear weapons.

The money the government is proposing to spend on this new bomb plant could be better spent on the needs of its citizens for living wage jobs, affordable housing, a good educational system, and health care. In Campbell County, Tennessee, where I have lived for 17 years, many of these human needs go unmet. For the Y-12 workforce gainful employment could be provided in dismantling nuclear weapons for quite some time. (I understand there is at least a 7-year backlog of retired bombs waiting to be dismantled.)

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(cont.)

We do not need a new nuclear weapons bomb plant. We don't need nuclear weapons for the US arsenal. The risks of a new arms race, of poisoning both humans and the earth are too great. I say "No!" to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Anne Hablas

Comment No. 1

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Comment noted. There is no plan or proposal in the Y-12 SWEIS to build a new bomb plant, manufacture new nuclear weapons or increase the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. 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 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 START I and the recently ratified START II. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE has continued its weapons dismantlement activities.

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. The need for nuclear weapons and alternative uses of the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.