

**Hallock, Judith**  
**Whittier, NC**  
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**Hartman, Gary S**

**From:** David Wheeler and Judith Hallock [dwheeler@jackson.main.nc.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2001 11:59 AM  
**To:** Y12EIS  
**Subject:** comments on EIS

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to comment on the EIS which considers four possible alternatives for Y-12 modernization. The DOE says it needs a new bomb plant because it needs to maintain a stockpile of 6,000 nuclear weapons for the US arsenal. I don't agree.

The US military has petitioned Congress for authority to reduce our nuclear stockpile, estimating that we can save \$9 billion a year if we retire unusable and unneeded missiles currently deployed. Even President Bush campaigned on a platform that included unilateral cuts in nuclear weapons, and has ordered a military review to try to begin that process. General Lee Butler, former head of NATO's nuclear forces, has called for arms reductions leading to abolition; he has been joined by dozens of military and political leaders from around the world, including former President Jimmy Carter.

What Y-12 does need is new facilities for dismantling nuclear weapons, processing and storing highly enriched uranium in non-weapons usable forms until it can be disposed of. These new facilities should be transparent (allowing for international inspection with nothing to hide) and safeguarded from attack.

Sincerely,

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(cont.)

**Comment No. 1**

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There is no plan or proposal in the Y-12 SWEIS to build a new bomb plant. 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. The need for nuclear weapons and the issue of how many nuclear weapons the United States maintains as a nuclear deterrent are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

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. Dismantlement of nuclear weapons (see Section 2.2.1 of the SWEIS) is an ongoing activity at Y-12. It is one of the core stockpile management activities at Y-12 and would not change under any of the alternative analyzed in the SWEIS.

The issues of aging facilities, worker safety, and cost effectiveness of operating the Y-12 would be addressed by the Modernization Program at Y-12. The issue of international inspection of Y-12 activities and materials would be dependent on national security interest. Y-12 currently hosts some international inspection/monitoring activities.