

Hill, Helene R.

Asheville, NC

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266 Merrimon Ave., Apt. D
Asheville, NC, 28801
February 18, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing to you about the plans to "upgrade" the facility for building nuclear weapons at Oak Ridge, TN.

The Department of Energy states that it needs a new bomb plant because it needs to maintain a stockpile of 6,000 nuclear weapons. This is one U.S. citizen who says that the U.S. does not need 6,000 nuclear weapons. It does not need any. Other nations are talking about reducing the nuclear stockpiles below the 1,500 missile level. It would not not more than 5 nuclear weapons to so damage any geographical area and its citizens that there would be no recovery forever! The destruction would be not only to the human beings, but to the earth itself, our beloved planet, which may not now be able to recover from our continual assault on it.

Instead of upgrading this facility, we need new facilities for dismantling nuclear weapons. These new facilities should be open for international inspection and safeguarded from attack.

My vote is a big "NO!!" to the new bomb plant at Oak Ridge, TN.

Sincerely,



Helene R. Hill

CC Senator Jesse Helms
Senator John Edwards
Representative Charles H. Taylor

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

Comment noted. There is no plan or proposal in the Y-12 SWEIS to build a new bomb plant or to increase the size of the Nation's nuclear weapons arsenal. Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has significantly reduced the size of its nuclear weapons stockpile, and DOE has dismantled more than 15,000 nuclear weapons. At the present time, the United States is further downsizing its deployed nuclear weapons stockpile consistent with the terms of START I and START II. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE has continued its weapons dismantlement. 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.

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