

Lawson, Stella

Berea, KY

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Hartman, Gary S

From: stella_lawson@bereda.edu
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2001 11:20 AM
To: Y12EIS
Subject: comment on Y-12



RFO522.TXT

Stella Lawson
CPO 900
Berea, KY 40404

U.S. Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations Office
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Sir,

I have a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes at Y-12. I do not see how the continued operation of this facility with its current and proposed mission is in any way compatible with the preservation of the local, regional, or global environment. Our nation and its political leaders have a moral and political obligation to step down our nuclear arsenal, moving towards disarmament as a real foreign policy goal.

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The U.S. 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. US President George Bush campaigned on a platform that included unilateral cuts in nuclear weapons. Even the political and military leaders of this country agree that we don't need 6,000 nuclear weapons.

The only responsible mission for the Y-12 plant would be the clean up of the toxic materials in East Tennessee due to Y-12's previous activities. The workforce that would be utilized in the making of bombs could just as easily be employed in the massive environmental clean up efforts needed as well as the dismantling of retired bombs. Employment will not suffer with a change in focus at Y-12.

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As a student at Berea College and resident of the region, the Y-12 plant threatens my well being and the well being of generations to come. Please take these concerns into consideration in your decision making. I certainly will when I cast my vote next. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stella Lawson

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

The Y-12 SWEIS includes the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental consequences of the continued operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the construction and operation of new facilities for the HEU Storage and Special Materials missions at Y-12. The proposed action is not expected to have any impacts upon the nuclear weapons endeavors of other nations; would not violate or impact any international treaties or agreements; would not have any impact on ongoing negotiations to further reduce nuclear weapons stockpiles; and would not promote nuclear proliferation.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 14

Environmental clean-up activities (see Section 2.2.2.2) is an ongoing activity at Y-12. Over the past several years, DOE has had a very aggressive facility upgrade and clean-up program and has worked with EPA, the states, stakeholders, and the public to clean up its facilities to acceptable levels. To date, DOE has completed numerous clean-up activities and is aggressively working toward the cleanup of its remaining environmental problems at ORR. Actions taken to continue Y-12 weapons support missions, and construction and operations of new facilities for HEU Materials and Special Materials missions at Y-12 would not be inconsistent with nor impact these ongoing clean-up activities.

The proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the Y-12 SWEIS would benefit the safety (both worker and public), operation efficiency, and cost effectiveness of operating Y-12.