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Pleasant Hill, TN  
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The Officers, D.O.E.  
E.I.S. hearing,  
Oak Ridge, TN

Statement Concerning Construction of New Nuclear Bomb Plant

First off, it seems to me the Dept. of Energy should be called instead the Dept. of War, because their main task seems to be making weapons of war.

How can anyone believe we need more nuclear weapons when they will greatly reduce the security of us Americans and the world by encouraging Russia to build more nukes, and India, Pakistan, China and other countries to build more nukes? We need to deactivate and dismantle nuclear weapons we have instead of building more. I can understand the concern of union people about the loss of good-paying jobs, but dismantling weapons could use just as many as building more.

Of course, the real drive to build a new plant and build more powerful missiles is not to give workers jobs, but to make defense contractors rich, and CEO's millions, so they can give big campaign donations to help Congress people get elected and pay Pentagon salaries to generals and staffs. This is a huge welfare check to defense contractors who should be unemployed since the Cold War is over, we have no threatening enemy, and spend more money already on defense that half the rest of the world put together

The bombs we already have could destroy the world several times over. Why do we need more?

If we want to spend a billion and a third dollars, or whatever it is estimated, that money could be much better used improving education, health care, social programs, and reducing the national debt.

I beg you, I implore you, do not build another nuclear bombs plant, at Oak Ridge, or anywhere.

Prayerfully yours,

Charles Lord



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(cont.)

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The United States is a declared nuclear weapons state, and the purpose of nonproliferation efforts is to keep non-weapons states from acquiring nuclear weapons while weapons states work toward the longer-term goal of achieving total nuclear disarmament. Non-weapons states which have agreed not to manufacture nuclear weapons are not likely to be encouraged to do so as a result of the Y-12 National Security Complex. The proposed action, which includes continuing weapons dismantlement 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. DOE is responsible for meeting the current requirements of the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Memorandum set forth by the President and Congress. The need for nuclear weapons and potential alternative uses of the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

As for rogue states bent on obtaining nuclear weapons at any cost, it is doubtful that the Y-12 mission activities will have any influence their nuclear weapons endeavors.