

McElhill, Elizabeth  
Pismo Beach, CA  
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Hartman, Gary S

From: Betty McElhill [bmcelhil@slonet.org]  
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2001 12:13 AM  
To: Y12EIS  
Subject: new facilities

Attn.: Gary Hartman  
U.S. Department of Energy

I strongly object to the proposals that would expand the facilities at Oak Ridge to maintain and/or upgrade our nuclear weapons.

6000 nuclear weapons are 6000 more than we need. Our efforts need to be shifted toward reduction of nuclear weapon stockpiles.

Nuclear weapon production has caused serious environmental contamination which is dangerous to the health of people, especially children and all those living near the plant. Efforts and funds need to be shifted from bomb production to clean-up.

Elizabeth McElhill  
2440 Coburn Ln., #7  
Pismo Beach, CA 93449

bmcelhil@slonet.org

1/16

**Comment No. 1**

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Comment noted. 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. 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 in its nuclear arsenal are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

The dismantlement of nuclear weapons is an ongoing activity at Y-12 (see Section 2.2.1 of the SWEIS). The proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the SWEIS would not change weapons dismantlement activities at Y-12.

DOE recognizes that it has facilities which require some level of environmental cleanup. Most of the facilities at Y-12 were designed and constructed in the 1940s and 1950s, prior to today's environmental requirements when the understanding of waste management principles was not what it is today. 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 general 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. Actions taken to continue Y-12 weapons support missions, and construction and operation of new facilities for the HEU Materials and Special Materials missions at Y-12 would not be inconsistent with nor impact these ongoing clean-up activities.