

Hartman, Gary S

From: Penny McMullen [mcmullensl@netzero.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2001 12:26 PM
To: Y12EIS
Subject: Y-12

Dear Gary Hartman:

I strongly oppose the DOE plan to build a \$4 billion plant at Oak Ridge to produce the Y-12 bombs. It violates international treaties, and makes us less secure rather than more secure. Citizens prefer that funds be spent for other security needs, such as health care, housing and food.

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Also, Oak Ridge has been polluting the environment and harming its neighbors for some time now. A very wonderful friend of mine who used to live near the plant just died of leukemia. It is time to stop this madness of killing our own citizens in the name of defense.

2/14

Sincerely,

Penelope McMullen
Sisters of Loretto

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Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

Comment noted. Parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty agree not to directly or indirectly transfer nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over them to any recipient; and not to in any way assist, encourage, or induce nonnuclear weapon states to manufacture or alter use, or acquire nuclear weapons, or alter nuclear explosive devices or control over them. Continuation of the Y-12 mission, and construction and operation of the HEU Materials Facility or Special Materials Complex by the United States does not conflict with such an agreement. The proposed action, which includes continuing weapons dismantlement activities 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. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE has continued its weapons dismantlement activities. Discussion of alternative uses of the Nation's funds is beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 14

Volume I, Chapter 4 of the Y-12 SWEIS describes the current affected environment (baseline) which includes the effects of past operations and environmental contamination. The effects due to past releases are reflected in the No Action - Status Quo Alternative. To date, DOE has completed numerous clean-up activities and is aggressively working towards cleanup of its remaining environmental problems. Actions taken to continue Y-12 operations would not be inconsistent with or impact these ongoing activities. As discussed in Volume I, Chapter 5, Section 5.12 of the Y-12 SWEIS, implementation of the alternatives for the continuation of the Y-12 weapons support mission, and the construction and operation of new facilities for the HEU Storage and Special Materials missions would pose no significant radiological or nonradiological health risks to the public. The conservatively estimated dose to the MEI for Alternative 4 would be approximately 4.5 mrem/year, which is below the NESHAP standard of 10 mrem/year. The health risks would not be significant regardless of racial, ethnic, and economic composition of the potentially affected populations.