

**Bergier, Kim Joy**  
**Madison Heights, MI**  
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25720 Miracle Drive  
 Madison Heights, MI 48071-4111  
 February 17, 2001

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

Dear Gary Hartman:

I know you are receiving many letters pro & con the development of a new nuclear weapons production plant at the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant. Please add mine to the stack voting solidly against the development of any nuclear weapons production, or even stockpiling.

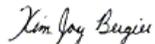
I support 100% what OREPA is doing in asking that the skills, time and money involved with any new facility be used "for dismantling nuclear weapons, processing and storing highly enriched uranium in non-weapons usable forms until it can be disposed of. These new facilities should be transparent (allowing for international inspection with nothing to hide) and safe-guarded from attack."

To sum up my personal, unique experiences around this issue:

- 1) As a 12 year old I visited Oak Ridge Nuclear Facility with my family in 1964. I couldn't believe how radiation was being presented as a cheap and completely safe energy source.
- 2) Our family had only just seen the consequences of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan the previous summer. We not only saw the museum showing the devastation but also stayed with a Japanese family who took us to meet some of the victims, as they struggled to regain a way to make a living and some sense of dignity. As Dr. Akizuki Tatsuichiro stated in a booklet, *A Journey to Nagasaki*, "Humankind had taken the gifts of wisdom and technological ability and used them for the slaughter of other human beings. The lethal power of the bomb and the cruelty inflicted by its radiation were truly horrifying." I know people who are still suffering from their deforming burns and their deep fears of the tens of thousands of much larger nuclear bombs on the earth today.
- 3) Over the last 30 years, a central theme of my life has been to abolish nuclear weapons. Dr. Helen Caldicott helped me face the reality that it would take only 1 of today's bombs to destroy all life on our unique planet. Going to the Nevada Test Site helped me see that the development, storage and use of nuclear bombs has and can only lead to greater disease, death, the potential for accidents, and less national security.
- 4) When I realized that nuclear bombs were still being developed at Y-12, I joined others on Hiroshima Day, 8-6-2000, to commemorate the loss of innocent people, pray for the closure of nuclear weapons production and ask for the dismantling of remaining stockpiles. I have learned that "Nuclear weapons production is in violation of the UN Charter, the 1949 Geneva Convention, the 1997 Protocol I to the Geneva Convention, the 1945 Nuremberg Principles, plus scores of human rights and environmental laws".

Please let me know what your decision is in regard to the EPA's EIS on all of Y-12's plans.

Respectfully,  
 Kim Joy Bergier



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**Comment No. 1**

**Issue Code: 16**

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 the START I and START II treaties. Although Russia suspended nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE has continued its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities. 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 Y-12 SWEIS assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the continued operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex, and the proposed construction and operation of new facilities for the HEU Storage Mission and Special Materials Mission 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.

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