

Betz, Phyllis
Knoxville, TN
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February 20, 2001

Gary Hartman
US Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations, DP-80
PO Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Dear Mr. Hartman:

This letter is in response to the Y-12 Site-wide Environmental Impact Statement.

I am opposed to the continued production of nuclear weapons and/or materials. The cost of weapons and materials is high in terms of actual dollars. But, even more important, the cost of these weapons in terms of the impact on the environment and the very life of the planet is too high to pay. We not only have a moral responsibility to care for all life on the planet today but to care for all beings who will be affected by our actions in future generations. These are dangerous materials and they are costly to store and to build. The damage they can cause to all life and the planet's environment is not measurable.

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The United States has a responsibility as a world superpower to take the lead in not producing or using these weapons. Other nations are more likely to follow our example than if we continue to build and stockpile these weapons. Accidents can happen both in the use and storage of these weapons/materials.

2/15

The only acceptable mission for Y-12 is the clean up of the toxic materials in the East Tennessee area due to Y-12's previous activities. I would urge Y-12 to consider this as their mission.

3/16

Sincerely,

Phyllis Betz
821 Normandy Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

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. There is no expanded production of nuclear weapons proposed in the Y-12 SWEIS. In addition, there are no plans or proposals to build new nuclear weapons production facilities to increase the weapons stockpile.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 15

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 clean up of its remaining environmental problems. Actions taken to continue Y-12 weapons support missions, and construction and operations of the HEU Materials and the Special Materials missions would not be inconsistent with nor impact ongoing clean-up activities.

DOE believes that it has adequately addressed impacts to public health and safety that could result from implementing the various alternatives. Volume I, Sections 5.12 and 5.14 of the Y-12 SWEIS address impacts to public health and safety from the proposed action and alternatives, and Volume II, Appendices D and E provide further detailed analyses related to human health effects

Comment No. 2 (cont.)

Issue Code: 15

from normal operations/facility accidents, and air quality, respectively. The risks mentioned by the commentor are very small with regard to the proposals in the Y-12 SWEIS, and actually would be improved by increasing the safety in the handling and storage of these materials.

Comment No. 3

Issue Code: 16

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 HEU Materials and Special Materials missions at Y-12 would not be inconsistent with nor impact these ongoing clean-up activities.