

Petullo, Jennifer

Wyomissing, PA

Page 1 of 2

Jennifer Petullo
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Wyomissing, PA 19610

January 29, 2001

Dear Mr. Harry Hartman,

I am writing you in regards to the Environmental Impact statement for the proposed Y-12 National Security Complex. I have concerns about this project that I would like to share with you. First of all, I am concerned about the special materials complex which will be added on to the uranium storage facility. I question the need and the wisdom of building a facility to produce new design nuclear weapons when Russia has ratified the START 2 Treaty and has begun to cut its nuclear arsenal. President-elect, Bush, has indicated his willingness to cut the US arsenal and the US does have a nonproliferation policy. It seems to me that it would create great international nuclear tension if we were to continue to build new weapons after we have signed a treaty to cut our arsenal. I believe that the United States has an obligation to uphold our international treaty and not build new weapons. In addition, the report neglected

1/16

2/12

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

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 a 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.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 12

DOE believes that it has adequately characterized the affected environment and addressed impacts to the environment that could result from implementing the various alternatives. Volume I, Chapter 4 of the Y-12 SWEIS describes the current affected environment which includes the effects of past operations and environmental contamination. The effects due to past releases is reflected in the No Action - Status Quo Alternative. Over the past several years, DOE has had a very aggressive clean-up program and has worked with EPA, the states, stakeholders, and the general public to clean up ORR to an acceptable level. 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

Petullo, Jennifer
Wyomissing, PA
Page 2 of 2

Comment No. 2 (cont.)

Issue Code: 12

operations would not be inconsistent with nor impact these ongoing clean-up activities.

to mention the history of environmental degradation with the 4-12. This is something that should be considered at the site of Oak Ridge.

2/12
(cont.)

I appreciate you listening to my concerns.
Peace be with you for your decisions.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Petullo