

Rundle, Bob
Knoxville, TN
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Hartman, Gary S

From: Pre-Installed Customer [rarhtr@icx.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2001 11:37 AM
To: Y12EIS; Knox News. letters; Sen. Frist; Sen. Thompson; John Duncan
Subject: Plans for Y-12

Dear Mr. Hartman,
Re: Y-12 Environmental Impact Statement

In 2001 I can think of no more insane public policy than spending billions of dollars on new or refurbished atomic weapons. Let's not forget that we got into developing our huge stockpile of nuclear weapons to help us (mistakenly) feel safe from the Russians and for political leverage in the cold war. DOE's current planning for the possible expansion of Y-12's bomb making capacity to maintain a stockpile of 6000 atomic weapons shows that DOE is still mired in this old thinking. Let's wake up.

For starters, such an expansion of Y-12's role complicates our foreign relations and sends the wrong message to the world. We already have a much larger stockpile than we would ever need. How many times do we want to blow up our world? Although the EIS plan includes maintaining a 6000 level of weapons, Presidents Bush and Putin have already started looking at stockpiles of less than 1500 each for the next round of disarmament talks. It doesn't take much imagination to see how our efforts toward disarmament and restricting other nations access to nuclear weapons will look if we follow through on expanding or even just maintaining our current level of weaponry.

It also does not take much imagination to see the number of critical needs (such as medical services for all our kids) that will go unmet if we spend billions on adding to our already overwhelming lead in nuclear weapons.

I find it a ludicrous argument that we need to keep all these weapons because of the threat of terrorists or "rogue" nations. How many thousand atomic bombs do our planners think it will take to deal with these? They must not be military planners since the military has already petitioned Congress to reduce our stockpile, estimating we can save \$9 billion a year.

Let's use the skilled people at Y-12 for what is really needed: dismantling many of our weapons and storing highly enriched uranium in non-weapons usable forms until disposition.

Prayerfully yours,

Bob Rundle 1318 N. Briscoe Cir. Knoxville, TN 37912

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(cont.)

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

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. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement actions since January 20, 2001, DOE has continued 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 alternative uses of the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.