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From: KarenSperos@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2001 7:27 PM
To: Y12EIS
Subject: Another Bomb Plant for the US?

Mr. Gary Hartman,
US Department of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations,
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Oak Ridge, TN 37831

I have environmental concerns about the decision to build a new bomb facility plant in Oak Ridge. Why don't we reduce our stockpile of 6000 nuclear weapons to 1500 and therefore, not have the need to contaminate the air, water and soil of the area? The current Y-12 workforce can be gainfully employed in dismantling nuclear weapons for quite some time.
My students and I want to know what the acronym Y-12 actually means?

1/16

Sincerely yours,

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Comment No. 1

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There are no plans or proposals in the Y-12 SWEIS to build new bomb plants or produce new design nuclear weapons for the stockpile. The proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the SWEIS address the continued operation of the assigned nuclear weapons stockpile management requirement of Y-12. The actions at Y-12 emphasize downsizing the site based on reduced nuclear weapons stockpile requirements, weapons dismantlement, safety, and cost efficiency. Whether the U.S. arsenal stays at 6,000 or goes below 6,000, the nuclear weapons would still require maintenance and monitoring, and the facilities to do that would need to be modernized.

There is little significance to the names of the three major facilities built as part of the original Manhattan Project: Y-12, K-25 (ETTP), and X-10 (Oak Ridge National Laboratory). There is no significance to the Y or 12 in Y-12 National Security Complex. The K in K-25 was used because Kellogg Corporation designed the plant; and 25 was used throughout the Manhattan Project to designate U-235. The X in X-10 was used by the University of Chicago in its original description of the site, but the 10 has no significance. However, local tradition has it that the ORR sites were given code names that were false map coordinates to fool enemy spies.