

Strader, Harold and Carolyn
Franklin, NC
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215 Roper Knob Road
Franklin, N. C. 28734-6120
February 12, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Hartman,

It is our understanding that your office is still open for comments in regard to the proposed development of the Y-12 National Security Complex. We are distressed to learn of the plans for building a new facility for the manufacture and maintenance of nuclear weapons.

There are several reasons for our opposition including President Bush's campaign efforts for cuts in nuclear weapons since, in his estimation we don't need nukes for security, with which we wholeheartedly agree!

Also, the U. S. military has petitioned Congress for permission to reduce our nuclear stockpile, and Russia's president has called for deep arsenal reductions.

These are just a few of the reasons. It would make more sense to provide for dismantling of nuclear weapons, with facilities that would be open for international inspection.

As you will note, we are sending copies of this letter to both North Carolina Senators, as well as our district Congressman.

Sincerely,



(Harold and Carolyn Strader)



Copies to:
Senator Jesse Helms
Senator John Edwards
Congressman Charles Taylor

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Comment No. 1

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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 on 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 the issue of how many nuclear weapons the United States maintains as a nuclear deterrent are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.