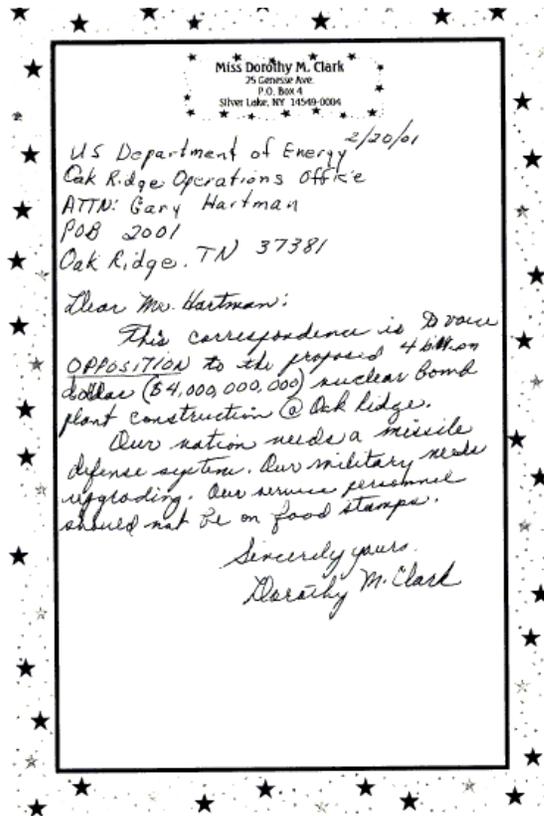


Clark, Dorothy M.

Silver Lake, NY

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Comment noted. There are no plans or proposals in the Y-12 SWEIS to build a new bomb plant. The proposed action and alternatives address the continued operation of the assigned nuclear weapons stockpile management requirement of Y-12. In accordance with Section 91 of the *Atomic Energy Act*, DOE carries out its mission (i.e., atomic weapons activities) consistent with the consent of and direction from the President and Congress. This consent and direction are contained in the Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Memorandum, which is updated annually. The issue of whether DOE should produce nuclear weapons and alternative uses for the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.