

Wolf, Gary
Woodbury, TN
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Hartman, Gary S

From: Gary Wolf [gwolf@mtsu.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2001 1:56 PM
To: Y12EIS
Subject: Oak Ridge EIS comments

Feb. 23, 2001

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

Dear Sir:

I am opposed to any plans to enlarge or enhance the current operations of the Y-12 facility at Oak Ridge. Please consider the following as general comments concerning your current EIS.

I believe nuclear weapons have no place in the U.S. defense arsenal. Their destructive capabilities are inhuman and their risk to the immediate environment of East Tennessee and North America, to the workers at the facility, and to the surrounding population is too high to justify their continued maintenance, much less any enhancement to the facility.

My concerns are heightened by my greater familiarity with y-12's sister facility at Paducah, Kentucky. I lived in southern Illinois for 10 years before moving to middle Tennessee four years ago. What I learned about the pollution of the environment there and the callous treatment of workers and the local community gives me little confidence in DOE's oversight and private management. Coupled with my opposition to nuclear weapons, this experience leaves me no alternative but to oppose the options to enhance the capabilities at Oak Ridge as outlined in the EIS.

I would be in favor of new facilities at Oak Ridge for the purpose of dismantling the weapons and ensure a safe end to their production.

Thank you for including these general comments in your deliberations.

Gary Wolf
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Comment noted. The proposed action and alternatives analyzed in the Y-12 SWEIS address the continued operation of the assigned nuclear weapons stockpile management requirement of Y-12. There is no proposal to expand capabilities or to increase nuclear weapons production at 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 is beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

Dismantlement of nuclear weapons is an ongoing activity at Y-12 (see Section 2.2.1) and would not change under any of the alternatives analyzed in the Y-12 SWEIS.