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Asheville, NC
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266 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
Feb. 19, 2001

U.S. Dept of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations Office
Att.: Gary Hartman
P.O. Box 2001
Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Respected Sir:

I oppose building a new \$4 BILLION BOMB PLANT AT Oak Ridge. I am writing you to ask you not only to vote against any new bomb plant at Oak Ridge, but also to urge you to use the power of your office to close the Oak Ridge Y-12 nuclear plant. Building a new \$4 billion bomb plant at Oak Ridge would be a terrible waste of financial resources a terrible waste of human potential, a terrible waste of environmental health and would undermine peace efforts world-wide. The Oak Ridge nuclear weapons plant renamed Y-12 National Security Complex that is already there has so polluted and poisoned the entire environment, forest, vegetation, streams and animal life with mercury releases that a recent deer hunt in which 100 deer were killed revealed that all of the deer were radio-active. Cancer rate in the area continues to rise. Fish from the streams are not fit for food. Workers have been subjected to nuclear radiation without the workers knowledge or permission.

More nuclear booms or weapons of any kind will not make anyone safer. A new bomb plant would only make everyone feel less secure and increase the fear and felt need around the world for increasing their own arsenals. We must stop challenging the rest of the world to try to keep up with the U.S. military madness. It is MADNESS.

We need affordable child care, preschools, head start programs, playgrounds, recreation programs, heat for their homes, food for growing bodies for our children. Every day people come to the crisis ministry where I am a volunteer seeking help with food, clothing, fuel, electric, rent because their incomes are not enough to provide for family needs. Building a factory to build bombs that we do not need represents robbery of the poor. It's insane. We cannot build a healthy society with nuclear weapons, bombs, jails and prisons. Nuclear weapons are for killing and destruction, for creating fear. Fear in the minds of those who see themselves as owners and creators of the weapons as well as the people against the people at whom the weapons will be aimed.

The \$35 billion the US spent in 1999 on nuclear weapons could have built a million Habitat for Humanity homes. A million families could have been helped to be more productive members of our society. We must learn that we are members of the world community not owners of it. No amount of nuclear weapons can give security, health and productivity to the world in which we live. What's good for one is good for all or it is not good at all. Let's stop poisoning our earth, our world and our people.

We do not need any new \$4 billion bomb plant. Please vote against it. Thank you for hearing me on this matter.

Respectfully,


Ruth Clark

1/16

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(cont.)

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

Comment noted. There is no plan or proposal in the Y-12 SWEIS to build a new bomb plant or to produce new nuclear weapons. 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 of the Nation's funds are beyond the scope of the Y-12 SWEIS.

Over the past several years, DOE has had a very aggressive facility upgrade and clean-up program and has worked with EPA, the states, stakeholders, and the general public to clean up its facilities to acceptable levels. To date, DOE has completed numerous clean-up activities and is aggressively working towards the clean up of its remaining environmental problems. DOE believes that it has adequately addressed impacts to the environment that could result from implementing the proposed action and alternatives in the Y-12 SWEIS. Volume I, Chapter 5, Section 5.12 of the Y-12 SWEIS addresses impacts from the proposed action and alternatives, and Volume II, Appendices D and E provide further detailed analysis related to human health effects from normal operations/facility accidents and air quality, respectively. Actions taken to continue Y-12 weapons support missions, and construction and operations of the HEU Materials and the Special Materials missions would not be inconsistent with nor impact ongoing clean-up activities.

Comment No. 2

Issue Code: 06

In 1999, 349 deer were harvested at ORR. Four deer were confiscated because they exceeded established release limits (5 pCi/g for ¹³⁷ Cs and/or 20 pCi/g for ⁹⁰ Sr). Since the hunts began in 1985, 7,472 deer have been harvested; a total of 165 (2.2%) were retained because of radiological contamination.