

Wrisley, Winifred M.

Asheville, NC

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Feb. 18, 2001

Dear Mr. Hartman,

I have just learned that plans are being made for a new nuclear bomb plant in your area. When I consider the importance of peace making and keeping efforts, I shudder as the message our country is giving the world with the emphasis on arsenals. Even more I worry about threats to the environment and health of those who live in the area, with mercury and other poisoning.

I hope this project, and the money it entails is being scrutinized very carefully.

Sincerely,
Winifred M. Wrisley

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U. S. Dept. of Energy
Oak Ridge Operations Office
att. Gary Hartman

1/16

Comment No. 1

Issue Code: 16

In accordance with Section 91 of the Atomic Energy Act, DOE carries out its atomic weapons activities consistent with the express 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.

Volume I, Chapter 4 of the Y-12 SWEIS describes the current affected environment which includes the effects of past operations and environmental contamination. The EM Program staff at Y-12 is currently conducting the Reduction of Mercury in Plant Effluents Project at Y-12. Two specific actions, Mercury in Soils and Bank Stabilization are components of the project. Section 3.2.2.3 of the Y-12 SWEIS identifies the ongoing EM restoration activities under No Action - Planning Basis Operations Alternative and the other alternatives. The Reduction of Mercury in Plant Effluents Project achieved a record low concentration in August 1999 for average mercury concentrations at Station 17. The radiological releases to the environment that could result from the proposed action or alternatives under normal operating conditions and various hypothetical accident scenarios are conservatively estimated in Volume I, Chapter 5 of the Y-12 SWEIS. The potential impacts to the environment and the radiological doses and risk to the public from these releases are assessed and discussed in Sections 5.12 and 5.14. The assumptions and methodology used for the assessment are described in detail in Volume II, Appendix D. As described in Chapter 5 of the SWEIS, the environmental impacts and the potential radiological dose to the public are well within the limits considered acceptable by the regulatory authorities.