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Asheville, NC  
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Maria L. Gelder  
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Asheville, North Carolina 28805

Gary Hartman  
US Department of Energy  
Oak Ridge Operations, DF-80

Dear Mr. Hartman,

This letter is written in opposition to the building of a new HEU facility and a new Chemical Processing Plant at Oak Ridge Tennessee.

Mr. Robert Dreyfuss was quoted as saying, "The governments own experts say the chance of terrorists attacking the United States with doomsday weapons is close to zero."

Other countries, particularly the Russian Federation and even the United Nations have protested the U.S. plans for national missile defense as being both unwise and in violation of international treaties.

We oppose this costly and unnecessary program.

Sincerely,  
February 23, 2001. *Maria L. Gelder*

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**Comment No. 1** **Issue Code: 16**

Comment noted. There are no plans or proposals in the Y-12 SWEIS for a new Chemical Processing Plant. The proposed action in the Y-12 SWEIS is to continue operations and construct and operate a Special Materials Complex and the HEU Materials Facility in support of Y-12's assigned nuclear weapons stockpile management requirement.

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 the START I and START II. Although Russia suspended its nuclear weapons dismantlement activities on January 20, 2001, DOE has continued its 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.