

**DON'T FORGET! YOU HAVE UNTIL JANUARY 29, 2010 TO COMMENT
ON THE PLANS FOR A NEW BOMB PLANT IN OAK RIDGE.**

If you've already sent in comments, thank you! Every voice raised in opposition is critical. As the numbers add up, the NNSA is realizing it has a problem.

If you haven't sent comments yet, please don't put it off!

You can find the document (called the Y12 Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement) on the NNSA web site at

www.Y12sweis.com. You should also be able to find a link there to submit comments.

You don't have to be an expert on nuclear weapons to comment; you can write from the heart. If you want talking points, see OREPA's web site: www.stopthebombs.org; follow links from the box on the right hand side of the page.

OREPA in DC

OREPA's coordinator, Ralph Hutchison, traveled to Washington, DC in December to participate in briefings on Capitol Hill organized by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. The purpose of the briefings was to underscore the importance of stopping expanded warhead production

capacity at Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Kansas City.

Ralph's job was to talk about the view from the grassroots. Also on the panel were Ivan Olerich, acting president of the Federation of American Scientists and Ambassador Robert Grey, Director of the Bipartisan Security Council and former US

Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament.

Ambassador Grey addressed the nonproliferation implications of building new weapons plants at a time when the US is trying to persuade other nations not to pursue nuclear options. Grey stressed the importance of US credibility and said "There are security implications if the US is seen as less than credible." Grey also said, "If we modernize the complex and develop new weapons systems, our credibility is zero."

The three-person panel presented briefings at the House of Representatives to staff and committee members on Wednesday morning, to Senate staff and committee in the afternoon, and then to NGO representatives in the late afternoon.

OREPA has long been an active member of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. ANA will host DC Days from March 14-17, a superb opportunity to go to Washington and talk to the decision-makers surrounded by other committed activists. You can find information at ANA's website: www.ananuclear.org.

The primary purpose of "modernization" — of the CMRR at Los Alamos, the UPF in Oak Ridge, and the Kansas City Plant — is expanded warhead production. If we clear out the marketing hype, we can talk about what is really on the table: increasing the US capacity to produce nuclear warheads — refurbished, modified, and new — not to guarantee the safety and reliability of our current stockpile, but to maintain an enduring nuclear arsenal for the indefinite future.

If we are to move in a direction consistent with the country's commitment to nuclear disarmament, we should commit our resources to pursue our stockpile security goals with the minimum investment necessary to maintain a safe and secure stockpile and a maximum commitment to full-capacity dismantlement and disposition.

~ OREPA's message in DC

NEW BOMBS IN THE FUTURE?

It turns out the weaponeer's best friend may actually be President Barack Obama's point person on nuclear weapons, former California Representative Ellen Tauscher who is now the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. Tauscher told defense reporters on January 13 that the 2011 budget will include money for a replacement for the Reliable Replacement Warhead through the Stockpile Management.

Tauscher declined to give a dollar amount, but said the budget would include a "crucial investment" in the Stockpile Management program. She explained to reporters that the RRW concept became "toxic" because it was seen by other countries as modifying and improving the US arsenal; she claims the new program will achieve the same aims as the RRW, but will do it without raising the hackles of other nations.

Putting money for modernizing or refurbishing the US arsenal in the budget appears will send a strong and disastrous message on the eve of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review. If the money is in the 2011 budget Obama submits to Congress, it will be up to us to get Congress to take the money out. (see DC Days, above)

Thanks! TO OUR DONORS

Just a bit of housekeeping. In December OREPA sent out an appeal (like thousands of other nonprofits) asking our members to help us make up a deficit which threatened to curtail our work at this crucial time. The response showed that OREPA's members understand how critical it is that we stop the new bomb plant in Oak Ridge and push the vision of a nuclear weapons free world forward. Contributions nearly tripled our previous fundraising record. We managed to meet our year-end payroll obligations, pay for our last newsletter, and enter the new year in the black.

Our Fundraising committee is still hard at work. With several crucial opportunities coming up, we'll need funds to continue organizing, but it's important (and nice!) to pause and celebrate the investment people have made in OREPA. Thanks to all our donors!

If you would like to support OREPA's work, you can click the Donate Now button on at www.stopthebombs.org. Contributions are tax deductible.

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P O BOX 5743 • OAK RIDGE, TN 37831

www.stopthebombs.org • orep@earthlink.net

