

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The new momentum for bomb plants and new warhead production requires action on several fronts. Here are things you can do—if enough of us do them, we can turn the tide.

1. React to the budget announcement on Monday. If you belong to a group or community, or simply as an individual, write a letter to the editor or release a press statement. The message can be simple: “Spending to reconstitute US nuclear weapons production capacity is wasteful and dangerous. It tells other nations we are not actually moving toward a world free of nuclear weapons, but planning to maintain a large arsenal for the indefinite future. President Obama said we will lead the world toward nuclear disarmament, but this budget goes the other way.”
2. Take the message to Capitol Hill now, and don't stop taking it. We need to make our case to our elected officials, and we need to be persistent. If your Representative or Senator is sympathetic, ask them to champion sanity. If your Representative or Senator is not inclined to pursue arms control, talk about fiscal responsibility and jobs. (We can maintain our arsenal without spending \$5 billion, and we will save jobs if we use existing facilities and technologies.)
3. Come to Capitol Hill and talk to them. It's that important. The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (which OREPA is part of) has scheduled DC Days March 14-17; funding for nuclear weapons production facilities will be high on the agenda. You can lobby with dozens of others from across the country—it's fun and effective. More info at www.ananuclear.org.
4. Support groups that are leading the opposition to funding for bomb plants. How much we can do is limited by resources: with enough money, we can publish more fact sheets and extend our reach; we can travel to make more presentations; we can consider legal strategies to stop construction of new facilities; we can build stronger coalitions with allies and strengthen our position as we work on legislators. You can donate to OREPA at www.stopthebombs.org; click the Donate Now button.

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**FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, RUMORS OF A TRADE**

have been circulating through the arms control world—in order to get Republican votes in Congress to ratify the START Treaty, or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the weapons establishment would be given new weapons production facilities to reconstitute full-scale bomb production capacity—the CMRR-Nuclear Facility in Los Alamos to make plutonium pits, the UPF in Oak Ridge to make secondaries and cases, and the Kansas City Plant in Missouri for non-nuclear components.

On Monday, the offer is being tendered in President Obama's budget. Vice-President Biden promised in the *Wall Street Journal* this week a massive increase in funding for nuclear weapons production: “Our budget devotes \$7 billion for maintaining our nuclear-weapons stockpile and complex, and for related efforts. This commitment is \$600 million more than Congress approved last year. And over the next five years we intend to boost funding for these important activities by more than \$5 billion.”

Since last January, OREPA has been saying the election of President Obama is not a reason to relax, but a call to action. The commitment of the Obama Administration to reconstitute full-scale weapons production capacity, coming on the eve of the NPT Review, is disastrous.

The action shifts now to Congress, where we have our work cut out for us. Last year Obama included \$54 million in his budget for design work on the new Uranium Processing Facility in Oak Ridge; Congress doubled it to \$94,000,000.

Among the many ironies of the Obama proposal is this: while VP Biden was penning his op-ed, President Obama was traveling the country touting his commitment to increase jobs; he mentioned it 29 times in the State of the Union address. But the proposed new bomb plant in Oak Ridge will not create jobs—according to the National Nuclear Security Administration, a new bomb plant will cost as many as 3,100 workers their jobs, and more than 10,000 jobs across the region.

On Friday, January 29, OREPA submitted detailed comments on the Draft Y12 Site-wide Environmental Impact Statement which reviews plans to build the new bomb plant. A letter supporting OREPA's comments was also submitted, signed by more than a dozen groups across the country. OREPA identified the nation's greatest national security need in the nuclear arena as increasing our capacity to dismantle and dispose of retired nuclear weapons.

OREPA also challenged NNSA to analyze the proliferation impacts of a decision to build a new bomb production plant; similar analyses have been prepared for other major weapons actions; for the Y12 SWEIS, the NNSA says a review from 1996 is sufficient, despite the dramatic changes in the proliferation landscape since 1996.

The Department of Energy's timeline for a decision on the Oak Ridge bomb plant is still on the calendar for “spring 2010.” It is not clear that timeline will hold, but it is fairly certain NNSA will push as hard as it can to pour money into the project as quickly as possible.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

OREPA is responding to the budget announcement with a press statement that will speak to specific Oak Ridge numbers when we see them on Monday. OREPA's coordinator is also quoted in the press statement being released by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability: [*“The plan described in this budget is not about maintaining a reliable nuclear stockpile; it is a multi-billion dollar pork construction plan spread across three states that will reconstitute the US nuclear weapons complex counter to Obama's own proclaimed goals for the United States. In Oak Ridge, the proposed new bomb plan will cost 3,100 workers' jobs and more than 10,000 jobs in the region. A classic example of what happens when you fix something that ain't broke. On the eve of the NPT Review, this sends a provocative and dangerous message to the rest of the world.”*]

a power > bombs OREPA is also organizing a Youth Action for Peace in Oak Ridge on April 10—we are making space for a young people's planning committee which will prepare the day's events. All ages are welcome—you don't have to be young to participate; young people need to see they have support from those of us who are, well, not-so-young anymore. The day will likely include an action and may include nonviolent civil disobedience by young people and others. More information will be posted on OREPA's web site: www.stopthebombs.org as it is available.

OREPA members are working to support the **International Peace Walk Towards a Nuclear Free Future** which leaves Oak Ridge on February 13 and will arrive at the United Nations in New York City by May 2 for the opening of the Nonproliferation Treaty Review. OREPA members are organizing the Tennessee portion of the walk, and some will be walking. We are partnering with Footprints for Peace and the Nipponzan Myohoji order; the Walk is also supported by Mayors for Peace, NIRS (Nuclear Information and Resource Services), the Fremantle Anti-Nuclear Group and the Arid Lands Environment Centre.

OREPA is making plans for members to go to Washington, DC for ANA's DC Days in March.

OREPA members will be in New York City for the opening of the NPT Review Conference in May and will participate in briefings at the UN.