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October 2, 2012

The Honorable Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
and Members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Ave., NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Winokur and Members of the Board:

My name is Tom Beehan, and I serve as the Mayor of the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. On behalf of my fellow City Council members and the entire City of Oak Ridge, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss safety issues related to the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

In preparation for this hearing, I recently read the report *Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board: The First Twenty Years*. This report, prepared by the Library of Congress in 2009, not only describes the technical work and major recommendations of the DNFSB, but also provides a fascinating history pertaining to the origins of the board during the waning years of the Cold War. The Congressional compromise embodied in the Board's enabling legislation sought to balance national security needs with the need to engender public confidence by establishing a program of rigorous safety oversight within the weapons complex.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is located entirely within in the city limits of Oak Ridge. In our city, with a population of 30,000, there is a tradition of strong support for the continued operation of Y-12 and its national security mission as a center of excellence for uranium and other special nuclear materials. The support, however, is predicated on the safe operation of the uranium processing facilities and the secure handling of these materials.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and its contractors have performed exceptionally well over the past decade as they have undertaken the transformation and modernization of the Y-12 site. With safety as the paramount community concern, though, modernization will not be complete until the Uranium Processing Facility is constructed as a replacement for Building 9212. While existing, aging facilities can be safely operated until UPF is operational, they are much more costly to safely run than operating new facilities. For the safety of our community, and the many citizens of our city who work at Y-12, another remodel of the aging 9212 facility just doesn't make sense in terms of operational efficiencies, worker safety, or the protection of everyone who lives in Oak Ridge.

The City of Oak Ridge is committed to strengthening intergovernmental partnerships as we move forward with the construction and operation of the UPF. Mutual aid and law enforcement agreements have been established with Y-12 as a framework for effective emergency response planning and implementation. City staff is working with their federal and state counterparts to ensure the needed infrastructure is in place to support one of the largest public works projects in Tennessee history. These partnerships are necessary in order to mitigate impacts associated with construction, transportation, security, and other logistical challenges such as relocation of parking for Y-12 employees.

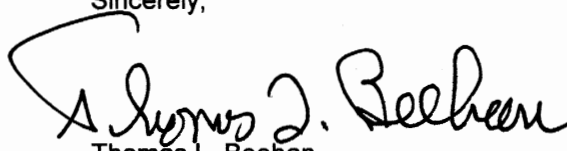
Y-12's highly trained and talented workforce cannot be easily replicated anywhere in the world, and our business community has fostered a culture of safety in Oak Ridge through a program of specialized

training and communication. In partnership with the Environmental Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA), the City has just recently co-sponsored the annual Safety Fest to educate and train workers and the public. You will hear more about these programs later today.

On a closing note, I currently serve as Chairman of the Board of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), the membership organization of local governments around the DOE complex. On ECA's behalf, I express my gratitude for your outreach to our communities across the nation, and urge continued cooperation and engagement with us.

The City of Oak Ridge looks forward to working with the Board, and with your Oak Ridge Site Representatives Rory Rauch and William Linzau, as we assist in the safe and successful deployment of the Uranium Processing Facility over the next decade. Together, we can fulfill the mission of the DNFSB to enhance national security in an environment that promotes safety and security for the Oak Ridge community.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Beehan
Mayor