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I'm Marcus Keyes and I live with my wife Glenda in Washburn TN. I'm a member of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. Today, I represent myself and my wife but dare to speak not just on behalf of our own safety but that of others as well as for the other life forms that cannot speak for themselves.

~~We~~ ^I thank the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, for scheduling this public hearing which gives the public a wonderful opportunity to share thoughts and feelings. At the outset, I wish to state that I recognize and appreciate that the Safety Board is the agency that tries its best to ensure the safety of the public as it pertains to nuclear facilities, and particularly for us, as it pertains to the existing 9212 building at Y12 as well as the proposed new Uranium Processing Facility. ~~You are members of the agency that cannot itself to be compromised by any other interest other than safety.~~ ^{Safety is your concern.} I have no doubt that you will fulfill your mission and ensure that the public's right to safety will be safeguarded as you consider the safety elements that need to be part of the proposed new UPF and the existing 9212 Building in the complex at Oak Ridge, TN.

*like a bomb
was concerned
being concerned
about impact
to public health
of this meeting
I cannot
speak in any
of them!*

Concerning the building of the UPF:

I ask that you demand that all the necessary safety elements are built into the design itself from the beginning. Any promises of "don't worry, we'll take care of that" must not be accepted. Neither can you even momentarily entertain, for whatever reason that may be proffered, anything that would compromise the safety of the public, the workers, and your own integrity as a Safety Board.

I think,

To be true to your mission, all safety elements must be clearly integrated into the design from the 'get go'. Only then can you, as a Safety Board, consider approval or disapproval of these elements. Only when all the safety elements are in place to your total satisfaction should the first sod be turned in the process of construction of the proposed new UPF facility.

I understand many of the pressures that some individuals ~~and~~ ^{and circumstances of} groups may bring to bear on you, including, perhaps, the rising cost element which, to the dismay of many, is already at the 19 billion dollars mark. ^{I'm sure Sen. Alexander is in show + must be the reason her lack of comment in recent years.} ~~However, as the champion of public safety,~~ you can ensure that if anything is to be cut because of lack of financial resources, it cannot be the safety elements. Safety of the public and the workers cannot be put at risk to any degree. ^{We remember Murphy's law -}

The current design which is an above ground design makes it very vulnerable to attack. This is not just a security issue. It is a huge safety issue. The UPF must be designed for maximum security that will also ensure maximum safety of the public. It is a surprise to me that the UPF is not an underground construction like so many other military or quasi-military facilities in the

country. As it is designed, it is a 'sitting duck' to be attacked by even just a few people who are not, to say the least, committed to a non-violent way of life! It seems to me that an above-ground construction of such a sensitive security building makes it easier for groups or individuals who are intent on doing the country harm. Consequently, I think it is monumental security and safety mistake which puts the public and workers at serious risk – a risk that could be avoided by an underground construction.

We need you, the members of the Safety Board, to demand that all the necessary and humanly possible safety measures be taken in the construction of the proposed new UPF building. Prevention of any lapse in public safety is the only option for you and for those at risk.

Concerning Building 9212:

I want the Safety Board and NNSA to go on record to reassure the public that Building 9212 is safe to operate for the next ten years. If the Safety Board and NNSA cannot assure the public of its safety then safety should trump production. Money must be put into assuring the safety of the current building.

Thank you for your time. Please excuse stating the obvious to you. Yet, I needed to say what I think and put it on record. We thank you for your work on behalf of public safety. We depend on you. Safety must be the number one priority when considering the building of the proposed new UPF facility and the operation of Building 9212.