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Maryville Tennessee 37803
10 January 2014

Peter S. Winokur, Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004-2901

Public Hearing 10 December 2013, Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Winokur:

I was unable to attend the Public Hearings at the Knoxville Convention Center on 10 December and now want to add my comments. I had spoken up at the 2 October 2012 hearing and appreciate the opportunity to exercise my citizen's right to address concerns.

As a member of the United Methodist Church, I share the Social Principle of moving toward a nuclear free world as soon as possible. As a citizen of the US of America, I urge the upholding of international treaties that are to help move us toward that goal.

The current plans for the Uranium Processing Facility, with a set-aside of the dismantlement mission, is moving toward "refurbishing" (i.e. making new) warheads. That in itself is counter the New START treaty as well as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The disregard of these hard-won treaties is of great concern.

A particular concern I have, as one living at Ground Zero, is the seismic vulnerabilities of the Y-12 complex. We are in the East Tennessee seismic zone which may be minor but is active.

The National Nuclear Security Administration spokesperson, Steven Wyatt, is quoted by Frank Munger in the Knoxville News Sentinel (18 December 2013) saying:

"Given the hydrogeology of the Y-12 site, above-ground construction for UPF is the best overall approach."

I am asking you to give full attention to the seismic issue. How can there be enough concrete to pour into the underground base of an enormous building processing and storing highly enriched uranium and multiple other toxic materials to withstand even a minor earthquake?

1. On 23 August 2011 a 5.8 magnitude quake struck near Mineral, Virginia.
2. On 11 November 2012 we experienced a 4.3 magnitude quake which originated just outside of Whitesburg, Kentucky.
3. The US Geological Service has estimated a 7.5 magnitude max could happen here.
4. Bob Hatcher, geologist at the Univ. of TN – Knoxville, has said a magnitude 7 along the New Madrid fault would also impact East Tennessee.

In a 27 September 2012 letter from you to Tom D'Agostino, then administrator of NNSA, you noted: "The ability of safety-related controls to function after a seismic event is necessary to maintain worker safety. The Board believes that justification of these assumptions is necessary to understand adequately the UPF structure's behavior in the event of an earthquake and ensure that the potential to damage safety-related controls is not overlooked or incorrectly represented."

The disaster of the 11 March 2011 Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima is a clear admonishment of the lack of sufficient planning and the foolish lack of regard to the need for stewardship of this planet.

As a person of faith, I appeal to those of you who make decisions that so tremendously affect the well-being of the ecology of life, to take the time and effort to see beyond pressures of powerful players.

In anticipation of further hearings into the accountability of planning the UPF, I will stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Green