



Office of the County Executive
Roane County Courthouse

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DNF SAFETY BOARD

September 17, 2013

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board meeting and public hearing on October, 22, 2013 in Knoxville, TN

Dear Board Members:

A year ago I wrote and addressed the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) in support of the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) at the Y-12 National Security Complex. I would like to reiterate that support is still extremely high in our communities. I strongly believe this support will continue.

The Y-12 National Security Complex has played and continues to play a pivotal role in the United States' and world's security. The original facilities, as you well know, were built in the 1940's and have serviced this nation well. However, as with any capital asset, technological obsolescence and functionality degradation reduce the performance of the asset. After over 70 years of service, the useful life-expectancy of the Y-12 National Security Complex facilities has been surpassed. I often tell my colleagues that UPF is the rebuilding of the Y-12 plant facilities and continues the mission of Y-12.

I applaud the work of the DNFSB and United States Department of Energy by continuing with engineering and budget projections prior to letting major contracts. Let' build it right as the nation deserves a high-performing, functional facility that is not only safe for our workers, but is also safe for our community. The right facility will serve the nation for many generations.

As County Executive of Roane County I realize and recognize that we have thousands of workers in our county and surrounding counties that receive stable employment from Y-12 and the facility is a catalyst of economic growth. However, the real advantage for the UPF project at the Y-12 complex is that our workforce is educated, trained and experienced in operating the old Y-12 complex and will have a unique understanding of the new UPF operations.

May this letter convey my full support for the construction of the Uranium Processing Facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Sincerely,

Ronald B. Woody
Roane County Executive

RBW:mt