

CITY OF OAK RIDGE



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December 10, 2013

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 Oak Ridge community, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).

As you know, the Y-12 National Security Complex is located entirely within in the city limits of Oak Ridge, with a population of 30,000. Many of our citizens are retired from, or currently work at Y-12, including several of my colleagues on City Council. Oak Ridgers strongly support the continued operation of Y-12 and its national security mission as a center of excellence for uranium and other special nuclear materials. Our support, however, is predicated on the expectation that the federal government will invest in state-of-the-art technology and undertake rigorous precautions to protect the health and safety of the Y-12 workforce and of our community.

For more than a decade, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and its contractors have systematically undertaken a program of facility modernization at the Y-12 site. While tremendous progress has been made, the transformation will not be complete until the aging process buildings are replaced with a new UPF. I am confident that existing facilities can be safely operated until UPF is operational, but they are increasingly inefficient and costly to run.

Since attending your hearing last year, I am very pleased with the progress that has been made regarding the integration of safety into the design of the UPF project. I look forward to completing the design and undertaking the construction phase of the project.

Finally, as Chairman of the Board of the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA), the membership organization of local governments around the DOE complex, I express my ongoing gratitude for your outreach to our communities. The work that you do and the relationships you build engenders public confidence in a program of robust safety oversight within the weapons complex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas L. Beehan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "B".

Thomas L. Beehan
Mayor