

## THE NEW BOMB PLANT IN OAK RIDGE:

# Do Something About It

**DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOUR GOVERNMENT SPENDING \$6.5 BILLION DOLLARS ON A NEW BOMB** plant to make thermonuclear weapons of mass destruction in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, when we are already way past broke because we have spent—and are still spending—hundreds of billions of dollars on wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Libya?

Then do something about it.

The bomb plant proposed for Y12 in Oak Ridge can be stopped. Every single good argument is on our side. The only thing that is not on our side is the \$\$\$\$ and the political clout that goes with it.

But money is not the only kind of political power there is.

Stopping the new bomb plant is possible if we do something about it. One of the most important things you can do is also very simple. Tell people about it. Share this newsletter with someone, send an email to a list on-line, write it up on facebook—or invite us to come and talk to a group in your community. This simple act is the way we build political strength to take on the big boys.

Action number two: tell your elected officials to say NO! to massive expenditures for new bomb plants. Remind them we are reducing our nuclear stockpile and negotiating further cuts in the arsenal. You can mention that independent experts have certified the current stockpile's reliability for decades, and that surveillance and maintenance work is small-scale—it is being done in existing facilities now. You can ask for some kind of reality check on the pricetag for the bomb plant in Oak Ridge, where the estimated cost has gone up 1000% (yes, one *thousand* percent) since it was first proposed only six years ago. You can point out that DOE itself has said it can upgrade existing facilities to meet its mission needs for a fraction of the cost of a new bomb plant (around \$200 million instead of \$6.5 Billion!). You can



The wind turned our banner into a flag as the young people attached it to the railing covering the Y12 sign at the April 16, 2011 rally in Oak Ridge.

ask how the US hopes to deter other countries (like Iran) from developing nuclear capability if we are investing in new production facilities ourselves. See? The talking points are simple. Turn them into a letter—is your representative or senator talking big about fiscal responsibility? Challenge him or her in a letter to the editor, and send them a copy.

Action number three: help OREPA mount a legal challenge to the Environmental Impact Statement for the new bomb plant. We are working to raise money to challenge the EIS and delay any construction on the new bomb plant. We have good grounds for a challenge, but we need funds for legal counsel.

*The dream of a world free of nuclear weapons is in danger of slipping away for another generation*—those of us who are in the generation in power

have a responsibility to make sure that doesn't happen. For ourselves, our children, and the future.

On April 16th, hundreds of people came to Oak Ridge to challenge the new bomb plant and lay claim to a future that reflected the president's promise of a world free of nuclear weapons. On May 9, thirteen people who were arrested for acts of conscience last July at the Y12 nuclear weapons complex will go on trial in federal court in Knoxville—they are seeking to draw attention to the failure of the United States to comply with its international treaty obligations.

People are taking action, and momentum is building, but there is more to be done, and each of us will have to do our part if we are to succeed.

There should be no if about it. The future demands that we succeed.

*"The world belongs to us because we offer the greatest hope!"*

**"WE DECLARE OURSELVES THE LAST GENERATION TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF A BOMB,"** they said, "We want to raise our children in a safer world, a world free of nuclear weapons."

Mary Findley and Sarah Margaret Hutchison's words echoed the giant multicolored banner that whipped in the wind behind them. Its words—A Safer World Is Our Right—covered the National Nuclear Security Administration's large sign declaring the site home to the Y12 National Security Complex.

Listening to them were peace demonstrators from Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, South Carolina, Alabama, Virginia and Tennessee. "We renounce the false security of nuclear weapons, rejecting their use as a means for national defense!" declared Findley. "We can not expect foreign powers to reduce their stockpiles if we are not willing to do the same. We must set the standard," said Hutchison.

The Youth Declaration was a

centerpiece of the days' activities which began with a gathering nearly two miles away at the Oak Ridge Civic Center—from there a march of almost two hundred moved through town, along the main highway, arriving at the main entrance to the Y12 weapons complex, where the Department of Energy continues to manufacture thermonuclear components for US warheads. The march was also the final leg of an eight-day peace pilgrimage from Asheville, North Carolina, led by the monks of Nipponzan Myohoji's Great Smoky Mountains dojo whose drumming and chanting guided us to the bomb plant.

The early morning sunshine gave way to thick clouds and gusty winds, but the chill did not deter those who came to claim the future from the jaws of death. Roused by the music of

the Emancipators and a Shakespeare mash-up from Ye Olde Puppetistas, the gathering created a spirit of hope; at the conclusion of the puppetista's performance people rose and danced to the music of accordions.

"The world belongs to our movement," said Marcus Keyes from the stage, "because we offer the greatest hope—a world free of the destructive force of nuclear weapons."

Reminding us of what was at stake, the Raging Grannies mixed the serious and the comic as they sang Armageddon, Here We Come! (While we're waiting to be saved/ The road to hell is being paved/ The invitations are engraved/ Armageddon, here we come!)

The day grew more serious as Mitzi Wood-von Mizener's sweet, powerful voice sang John Lennon's Imagine.



◀ The Pilgrimage for a Nuclear Free Future arrived in Oak Ridge after walking from Asheville, NC and became a march of hundreds to the bomb plant. ▶



◀ Young people (with a little help) fix their banner to the railing—the banner became the backdrop for a program featuring The Emancipators. ▶





Those gathered came forward to sign giant copies of the Youth Declaration, they moved to the fence to tie peace cranes on the barbed wire and join in a guided meditation, focusing the power of our dreams and visions of a future without nuclear weapons on the Y12 weapons complex.

As the crowd moved from the fence into a closing circle, a siren blared, and people fell to the ground. In seconds, the scene was silent as death, bodies lying still, representing the future planned by our government and eight other nuclear weapons states. For five long minutes, the reality of our lifeless future hung in the air.

Then a voice broke the silence. Rising to her feet, Mary Findley announced, "A safer world is my right!" Twenty feet away, Sarah Margaret Hutchison stood to declare, "A safer world is my right!" Then it was Kayce

Collins, and Emma McLeod, and Carmella Cole, and Kevin Collins, and Mary Dennis Lentsch and Carol Green, each claiming a safer world as their right as human beings as they rose.

Others lifted themselves, and as voices joined together the language shifted, "A safer world is our right!" they began to shout, and it gained a rhythm and became a chant: "A safer world is our right!"

The day closed in a circle, as the rains which had threatened all day began to close in. "The power we have brought here today does not dissipate as we go home," said OREPA coordinator Ralph Hutchison, "It goes with us. Each of us has demonstrated

our deep commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons. Each of us has the power to make this dream come true.

"By ourselves, we are almost powerless to effect the change we seek. But together, it's a sure thing. Because we have the power to tell others what we did here, what we saw here, what we felt here. We have the power, if we have the courage, to be the movement that is organizing the abolition of nuclear weapons.

"We represent the hopes and dreams of tens of millions of people around the world. We represent the hope of the future.

"So we leave here today satisfied with a great day. But we don't leave because it is over. It's only beginning."

see video of  
A Safer World Is  
Our Right at  
[www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org)



◀ Sarah Margaret Hutchison and Mary Findley read the Declaration A Safer World Is Our Right; others add their signatures to the copy Carmella Coles holds. ▶



◀ Coleman Smith helps Klara Brooks get into costume for the Ye Olde Puppetistas production. ▶



◀ The Raging Grannies sing of Armageddon—minutes later a die-in dramatizes a future full of nuclear weapons. ▶



# Trial of Y12 Resisters Opens May 9 in Knoxville

**THIRTEEN PROTESTERS WHO CROSSED** the line at the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, TN on July 5, 2010 in an act of nonviolent civil resistance will finally have their day in federal court in Knoxville, TN on May 9, 2011.

Judge Bruce Guyton issued an order on April 29 denying the defense motion to dismiss all charges and granting the government's motion to impose severe limits on the testimony to be permitted at trial.

Most of the defendants will stay at the Riverside Nonviolent Community as guests of Lissa McLeod and Jake Weinstein. They will be joined there by a dozen or so additional supporters who are traveling from out of town.

A Celebration of Hope-Filled Resistance will be held on the eve of the trial beginning at 7:15pm at Church of the Savior (UCC) on Weisgarber Road in Knoxville, with music by the Carawans and a chance to hear from defendants. Everyone is welcome at the Celebration. The defendants will meet in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church in downtown Knoxville at 7:30am Monday to process to court for the opening of the trial.

The trial is expected to last several days. Judge Guyton's usual courtroom can not easily accommodate thirteen defendants, their lawyers, the prosecution and the jury. We expect the trial will take place in another courtroom in the federal courthouse, but are not sure how many spectators will be permitted in the courtroom.

Several other events will take place during court recesses as we use the trial as one more opportunity to educate the public about weapons production at Y12.

The defendants are: Beth Rosdatter, Bill Bichsel, David Corcoran, Michael Walli, Carol Gilbert, Ardeth Platte, Jackie Hudson, Mary Dennis Lentsch, Brad Lyttle, Steve Baggaly, Dennis DuVall, Bonnie Urfer and Jean Gump

**Celebration**  
**of**  
**Hope-filled**  
**RESISTANCE**

**Sunday, May 8, 2011**  
**7:15 - 8:30PM**

**Church of the Savior**  
934 N WEISGARBER RD • KNOXVILLE, TN

*music by The Carawans*

Join us on the eve of the federal trial for 13 people who stood against nuclear weapons and crossed the fence at the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge, TN last July. We will hear from the defendants, update activities at Y12, and celebrate the power of hope-filled resistance.

# Work Camp At Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda

**ONE OF OREPA'S FAVORITE PARTNERS** in the work for a world free of nuclear weapons is the Buddhist order that walks for peace and builds peace pagodas around the world.

The dedicated team of Gyoshu Utsumi and Sister Denise have created the Great Smoky Mountains dojo just outside of Newport, TN, and are in the midst of construction of the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda—their answer to the destructive threat of Y12 is a monument to peace. OREPA members joined others on April 23 for a Flower Festival at the temple.

You can be part of the team that builds the peace pagoda by coming to the Work Camp scheduled for May 20 - June 4. You can come for a day, half a day, or a week. You can be guaranteed meaningful work with wonderful people and, at the end of the day, sitting on the deck looking across the valley, one of the most satisfying and restorative views in all creation.

If you plan to come for a work day—or especially if you

can give a few days—you might want to call ahead and let them know you are coming. You can reach the temple at 423 613 8209 or 404 627 8948, or email Sr. Denise at atlantadojo@yahoo.com



The flower festival at the Great Smoky Mountains dojo.



# KEEP OREPA WORKING, KEEP THE PRESSURE ON DOE KEEP THE INFORMATION COMING...

**IF YOU ARE READING THIS** newsletter, chances are you know who provides the funding for OREPA's work because *you* are the funding source. OREPA relies on its members for 90% of its funding—the money to pay staff, print newsletters, prepare for actions, make presentations, maintain the website, publish our Reflection Booklet, and organize vigils. We are able to do it on a shoestring because most of the work is done by volunteers—we have only one paid staff person.

We also receive some small grants—this month RESIST provided a \$2,000 grant in support of the work OREPA does, and a local foundation, the Appalachian Community Fund, also usually provides a small grant.

We also receive, with great gratitude, contributions from religious communities whose members join us in the work to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

But the bulk of the money comes

from our members—you and your peers who believe in the need for a grassroots group focusing on the Y12 nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, TN.

OREPA works in concert with other groups around the country through the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability—it is an important venue for sharing information and enhancing the impact of our work because we are working together.

Like most nonprofits in these times, OREPA is constantly working to raise its working capital month to month—some months we have to defer paychecks, but we are usually able to catch up. It has been like this for several years, so we've come to count on our members to come through—but we're not complacent.

So we're asking you now: If you value the work OREPA does and the information OREPA provides and the opportunities for action OREPA coordinates—please make OREPA's work *your* work with a contribution today.

## OREPA's new web site— designed with you in mind

**OREPA'S NEW WEB SITE** was launched this spring—you can find us now at [www.orepa.org](http://www.orepa.org). The new site is not just pretty—it's designed to be useful.

What will you find there? The latest information, a schedule of events, photos from actions, resources you can download, links to other groups we work with, a place to make donations, and a chance to send us feedback.

There's also information about OREPA—who's on our Board, our reports to the IRS, there are on-line versions of the newsletter and the Reflection Booklet and more... but don't take our word for it—check out the site.

The new web site comes courtesy

of Geoffrey Hennies and Lowthian Design (look them up in the credits on the web site), who set us up and helps maintain the site.

When longtime volunteer web-mistress CJ Sellers retired from the OREPA site in August, we realized it was time to update the site, taking advantage of new tools, and we set out to build a site that has user friendliness as its top priority.

We're glad to hear what you would like on the web site—your wish is our

### Coming up

May 9-11  
**TRIAL OF Y12 RESISTERS**  
Federal Court  
Knoxville, TN

Every Sunday, 5:00pm  
**Y12 VIGIL**  
Gates of Y12 Weapons Complex  
Scarboro Rd & E Bear Creek Rd  
Oak Ridge, TN

Sunday, July 10, 2011, 1-4pm  
**WORLD COURT OPINION READING**  
University of TN Law School lawn  
James Agee & Cumberland Ave  
Knoxville, TN

Saturday, August 6, 2011, 6-9am  
**NAMES AND REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**  
Gates of Y12 Weapons Complex  
Scarboro Rd & E Bear Creek Rd  
Oak Ridge, TN

Tuesday, August 9, 8:15pm  
**PEACE LANTERN CEREMONY**  
Sequoyah Hills Park  
Cherokee Blvd, west end  
Knoxville, TN



command. Or at least our strong suggestion.

If you're a creature of habit, don't despair, the old web address, [www.stopthebombs.org](http://www.stopthebombs.org), will still get you to OREPA.

# New bomb plant decision apparently held up

**WHEN THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR** Security Administration released the Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Y12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in March, the schedule called for the Record of Decision for the new bomb plant to be published in May.

OREPA submitted comments on the Final Y12 SWEIS challenging DOE's decision to construct an 80 warhead/year capacity bomb plant when, by DOE's own admission, it needs only a capacity of 10 warheads/year to maintain the stockpile. Why the huge jump in capacity? OREPA asked, noting the plutonium bomb plant (CMRR-NF) being planned for Los Alamos also had an 80 warhead/year production capacity. It is clear, though DOE is not saying so, the twin plants are being sized to permit production of new warheads.

The biggest problem with the Y12 SWEIS, though, is that it glosses over DOE's plan for massive soil excavation in order to address seismic concerns identified by OREPA and the Defense

Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. When DOE decided to excavate hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of soil and construct a concrete batch plant to produce the concrete to fill the resulting hole for the CMRR-NF at Los Alamos, it prepared a Supplemental EIS, complete with public hearings.

In Oak Ridge, the same action receives three oblique references—three sentences in a three volume study—and is dismissed as not relevant to environmental concerns.

OREPA also noted the Y12 SWEIS is supposed to address "site-wide" activities, but it focuses almost exclusively on the new bomb plant and, while it touts the major footprint reduction and maintenance savings from the demolition of old facilities,

the SWEIS fails to provide any analysis of the environmental impacts of the demolition and disposal of contaminated wastes that will result.

We do not know what is causing DOE/NNSA to delay the Record of Decision for the UPF, but the DOE schedule now lists the release of the Record of Decision as "uncertain," and the May marker on the timeline has been removed.

While we hope DOE is finally stepping back to address the serious concerns about seismic integrity of its facilities at Y12, we aren't getting our hopes up too high. We still expect when the ROD is released, the deficiencies in the final

SWEIS will still provide ample cause for litigation, and we are preparing accordingly.

**In Los Alamos, the massive excavation of soil required preparation of a Supplemental EIS; in Oak Ridge, the same action got three sentences; one of which declared it was not environmentally significant.**

return service requested

OAK RIDGE, TN 37821

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OAK RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL PEACE ALLIANCE





