

October 2, 2012

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Public Meeting at Knoxville Convention Center, Knoxville, Tennessee**

Dear Members of the DNFSB:

My name is Erik Johnson and I live in Maryville, Tennessee . Please know that I am grateful for this opportunity you have accorded East Tennesseans and others to address concerns about the safety of the proposed Uranium Processing Facility and affording me a few minutes to share my own concerns and hopes for the outcome of this public meeting .

From the outset I would like to say that I continue to be awe-inspired by the courage, wisdom, faith commitment, and humility of three dear and kindred-spirit friends who carried their hopes for our threatened world onto the grounds of the Y12 nuclear weapons facility in the early hours of July 28 this past summer.: Sr. Megan Rice, Michael Walli, and Greg Boertje-Obed. of Transform Now Plowshares.

I am of the conviction that you, DNFSB members, have the potential to do what we all must do the as-yet undoable: seek safety and security of our life together with others here in East Tennessee and around the world by stopping immediately the building of nuclear bombs, halting the all construction of nuclear weapons facilities, and immediately dismantling all our nuclear weapons. That is the real movement towards critical security for ourselves, our families, and our global family sharing a common home Earth home.

With each passing day of life, the search for security is becoming more obscure. We are subjected to indoctrination in the myth of "security". Having heard countless claims proclaiming we are safer today than ever, many accept such claims almost without question. And why not, there are sanctified reasons to bolster the myth: billions of our dollars are spent on nuclear weapons, obscene escalation of billions more proposed for the new Uranium Processing Facility (UPF), endorsement of our government leaders, including Tennessee's senators and congressmen. These and many other factors are carefully screened through the web of mythical belief that nuclear weapons facilities like those here at Oak Ridge Y12 are necessary to assure the security of the United States and world.

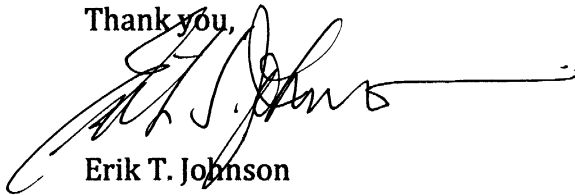
Under such circumstances, it is easy to understand why it is hard for anyone in search of fundamental crucial questions, particularly those regarding safeguarding our planet Earth and all life, ever bother to explore another path at arriving at safety and security concerns.

Patterned after the Hans Christian Anderson's tale The Emperor's New Clothes, the incessantly repeated mantra "National Security" has dulled our senses to the

contradictory reality that we actually live: horrific threats of global nuclear annihilation and the catastrophic depletion of national and global resources away from desperately needed funding for authentic security of basic food, education, health care, housing, infrastructures of communities, care of the environment.. While in this age of illusional security it is easy to point accusing fingers at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) – failure to integrate safety into design of the proposed UPF, skipping the preparation of the required Preliminary Safety Design Report, and relaxing criticality safety standards for UPF to the detriment of workers and public safety --there can be no doubt that broad-scale transformation is needed to assure public safety, beginning with stopping the bomb building enterprise here at Y12 and elsewhere.

Again, there is a nuclear time-bomb ticking. There are no places to hide on our shared planet. Where does one go when the bombs fall?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik T. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik T. Johnson