

DNFSB 2013

I am Mary Dennis Lentsch, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation. I live at Washburn TN in Grainger County and I am an active participant with the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA).

First off I want to thank the DNFSB for holding this public accountability hearing in Knoxville that also includes an opportunity for local citizen input.

When we talk about safety with regard to Y-12 and the UPF, I am a very concerned citizen. My concern prompted me to attend and speak at the DNFSB hearing last year and to be present today.

It is my understanding that the UPF will be implemented in three phases and this raises a red flag for me with regard to safety. Safety must be the highest priority whether there is one Project Manager for the 3 phases or whether there is a different Project Manager for each phase. During these 3 Phases safety considerations may be in competition with design schedules, production demands and project costs.

My question: Who will be responsible for maintaining the continuity of high quality safety throughout the 3 Phases?

I expect the DNFSB to demand maximum safety in the design and all operations by Project Managers and Contractors throughout the proposed 3 Phases. This means the DNFSB must receive the funding not only to maintain current staffing levels, but funding sufficient to address additional questions about safety that will arise from the effects of budget constraints on other aspect of Y-12 operations.

My question: Will the DNFSB have the necessary financial and government support to carry out their critical mission of insuring safety at nuclear facilities?

Security and Safety are linked like Siamese twins when nuclear weapons structures are considered. An ideal UPF structure at Y-12 would be a concrete bunker covered by an earth berm on the top and at 3 sides, leaving only one side to be protected. The proposed above-ground design of the UPF leaves 4 sides and a roof vulnerable and needing to be protected. This means significantly more security will be needed to defend the above-ground UPF.

My question: What is the safety plan to increase the security forces at Y-12 needed to protect the proposed UPF?

I live about 40 miles from the Y-12 bomb plant and consider the safety oversight work of the DNFSB to be indispensable to protecting the operations of Y-12 and local citizens. For me this safety oversight is of paramount importance.

Thank you.