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SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE PRODUCTION OF TRITIUM  
IN A COMMERCIAL LIGHT WATER REACTOR  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

October 20, 2011

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)  
Department of Energy (DOE)  
Southeast Tennessee Trade and Conference Center  
122 Regional Park Drive (2405 Decatur Pike)  
Athens, Tennessee

Open House 6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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Sierra Club

CAROL GREEN (Comment Attached)

18

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

RALPH HUTCHISON (Comment Attached)

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Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 BY

3 MODERATOR HOLMES BROWN

4 I will now read into the record, for verbatim  
5 transcription, my introductory remarks for the public  
6 scoping meeting.

7 This portion of our meeting is officially  
8 designated as the public scoping meeting for the Commercial  
9 Light Water Reactor (CLWR) Supplemental Environmental Impact  
10 Statement (SEIS).

11 This meeting is being held on October 20, 2011, in  
12 the Southeast Tennessee Trade and Conference Center in  
13 Athens, Tennessee. It is being held to receive comments on  
14 the scope of the CLWR SEIS. We are commencing the public  
15 comment portion of this meeting at 7:00 p.m. and are  
16 scheduled to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. once all participants  
17 have had a chance to make their comments.

18 This meeting was preceded by a presentation by  
19 NNSA's SEIS document manager, Mr. Curtis Chambellan. Mr.  
20 Chambellan will represent the National Nuclear Security  
21 Administration (NNSA) in listening to and accepting your  
22 comments.

23 For the record, my name is Holmes Brown. I have  
24 been asked by the NNSA to conduct this comment period as an  
25 independent and neutral moderator. I will ensure that the

1 ground rules reviewed earlier in the evening are followed.

2 It's that time to begin the formal comment period.

3 This is your opportunity to provide comment on the proposed  
4 SEIS. I will recognize speakers in the order in which they  
5 registered. Given the number of people who have signed up  
6 -- customarily, we provide a maximum five-minute comment  
7 period. In view of the number of people who have signed up,  
8 I think I'd just as soon have everybody complete their  
9 statement at their initial presentation; recognizing that if  
10 you have a really long statement, don't try the patience of  
11 the audience, I guess, and just summarize your key points.  
12 You may submit the remainder of the statement for the  
13 record.

14 I'll be calling two speakers at a time; the  
15 current speaker and the next person in line. When it's your  
16 turn to speak, please come up to the microphone over there  
17 and provide your name and affiliation where appropriate.  
18 Again, if you have a written copy of your comments or you  
19 have a document you would like to submit for the record, you  
20 can give that to the court reporter after you've completed  
21 your statement. Each comment material will be made part of  
22 the official record and each comment, in whatever form, will  
23 be considered equally by the NNSA.

24 The court reporter this evening is a seasoned  
25 veteran, Jimmie Jane McConnell, and Curtis Chambellan will

1 be the hearing officer for NNSA for this evening.

2 The court reporter's task is to create a complete  
3 and accurate transcription of this meeting. The verbatim  
4 transcript of oral comments received tonight will be  
5 included in the NNSA's record of these proceedings. NNSA  
6 will place copies of the transcript from the public meeting  
7 on the NNSA web page as soon as practicable.

8 By way of introduction, let me call on Brian  
9 Paddock of the Sierra Club, who will be our first speaker;  
10 and he will be followed by Ann Harris.

11 Welcome.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTS

13 MR. BRIAN PADDOCK: Thank you, sir; thank you Mr.  
14 Hearing Officer. I guess being first is the reward I get  
15 for being here while the lights were still out and the open  
16 house was still being organized.

17 I'm an attorney. I live in Jackson County  
18 Tennessee. It takes about three hours to get here.

19 I was asked to come here this evening by the  
20 Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club and by the National  
21 Nuclear Issues Action Team of the Sierra Club.

22 The Sierra Club does not have a specific national  
23 policy position on tritium, but it has a number of policies  
24 respecting nuclear power and radioactive materials. I speak  
25 within the framework of those policies.

1 Preliminarily, I'd like to note that I hope that there is  
2 one of these hearings being held in South Carolina. I've  
3 recently been on a number of phone calls and I know that  
4 there are lots of folks in and around in South Carolina and  
5 around Savannah that are tired of having their state dumped  
6 on as a national nuclear sacrifice area.

7 The transportation and processing of additional  
8 tritium, as is proposed here as several of the options, they  
9 that ought to have a chance to speak on that; as should  
10 people between here and there on the transportation issues  
11 that are created.

12 I also speak from the perspective of a  
13 grandfather. I have two grandchildren who live in the  
14 Chattanooga area and drink from the Chattanooga water  
15 supply. I'm wondering, quite frankly, if the people of  
16 Chattanooga were properly notified. I would like the final  
17 record in this matter to answer the question as to what kind  
18 of outreach was done for the largest city south of here  
19 downstream that will be affected by any increased release of  
20 tritium to the water.

21 Your No Action Alternative is not really no action  
22 in the sense that you have not yet required TVA to produce  
23 tritium at its Sequoyah plant. Only the Watts Bar 1 reactor  
24 is being used for this. To say no action means that we'll  
25 start producing potentially within existing arrangements at

1 both Watts Bar and Sequoyah is really to expand the action  
2 even within your existing authorization. That strikes me as  
3 being a misleading characterization for an environmental  
4 impact statement no action.

5 I, for one, am not convinced that there is any  
6 need for additional tritium and I would ask that in so far  
7 as this can be done that the report and Draft SEIS really  
8 thoroughly explore, as has been referred, I think, in the  
9 opening remarks by the agency here -- the nuclear stockpile  
10 is declining, smaller proportions of it need to be kept at  
11 top readiness.

12 Quite frankly, you have a situation where you're  
13 talking about spending an enormous amount of effort, having  
14 environmental consequences, and spending an amount of money  
15 on weapons that you intend never to use. In the current  
16 circumstances we are seeing around the world, while there is  
17 a lot of human conflict, none of it is appropriate for  
18 intervention by nuclear weapons. In fact, we are trying to  
19 bend every effort to see that those do not fall into anyone  
20 else's hands and we would hate to have the example of this  
21 country ever using a nuclear weapon. The decommissioning of  
22 these weapons would be a far better support for a no action  
23 alternative.

24 We also are concerned because we believe that the  
25 use of civilian power reactors is, if not contrary to the

1 letter, certainly contrary to the spirit of nonproliferation  
2 and it simply disables the United States, it seems to me,  
3 from having the moral high ground when it says to other  
4 countries: You should not be developing such weapons and  
5 the delivery systems capable of using them.

6 We all know who we're talking about. We're seeing  
7 a very destructive situation in the Middle East and we know  
8 that there are nuclear weapons in that zone right now. They  
9 are not equally distributed and that is driving a demand  
10 that there be more and more countries armed with nuclear  
11 weapons.

12 We must do our best to stop that. We can only do  
13 that if we can say we are in fact continuing to reduce our  
14 stockpiles and we are not going to be making tritium or  
15 anything else that relates to our weapons program or  
16 civilian reactors.

17 The numbers game in this is kind of interesting  
18 because you can say that you're within regulatory limits  
19 even though the amount of tritium released was four times as  
20 much as you originally expected. This has been an early  
21 problem. I've seen memos going back to the first cycle,  
22 practically, that indicated that there were detections of  
23 tritium that exceeded expectations.

24 From what I could gather in the discussions before  
25 this hearing started, the technical problem of actually

1 keeping all the tritium within the rods and having it  
2 collected by the getters for use in weapons has not been  
3 resolved. In other words, this proposed expansion is going  
4 to increase the amount of tritium not just because of the  
5 increased number of rods that are exposed and perhaps the  
6 expansion of the geography to include Sequoyah but also  
7 because each rod is going to give us more radiation release  
8 to the environment.

9 We ask that this be carefully discussed in the  
10 SEIS because we think it is a risk to human health  
11 environment that is simply not sustainable; sustainable in  
12 the sense of justifiable in relationship to our needs.

13 I would note that throughout this discussion in  
14 the introduction and up to this point there's been no  
15 mention of what we in Tennessee did for ourselves many years  
16 ago in the '70s. We passed something called the Tennessee  
17 Clean Water Act. The Tennessee Clean Water Act specifically  
18 makes it illegal to change the radiological characteristics  
19 of the waters of Tennessee without a permit from the State.

20 I did not have a chance to look at the National  
21 Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit for Watts Bar.  
22 That, by the way, is being amended even as we speak to be  
23 expanded to allow certain activities at Watts Bar 2  
24 including the operations of that plant eventually. But  
25 nowhere in there, as I reviewed it up to this point, has it

1 really recognized that the tritium release related to the  
2 tritium production for weapons is significantly different  
3 than the tritium release that might be unavoidable in the  
4 production of power.

5 I would suggest and again ask that the SEIS  
6 address the accumulative impacts. Watts Bar and Sequoyah  
7 both are really located in national sacrifice zones. We  
8 have been in the process of destroying the tributaries in  
9 the upper Tennessee River for years. We first damned them;  
10 then we dumped our industrial pollutants into it; and then,  
11 when we came to World War II, we didn't care what happened  
12 and we have dumped radioactive materials all around the Oak  
13 Ridge nuclear reservation. It's a national site for cleanup  
14 that we're spending millions of dollars a year trying to  
15 clean up radioactive materials that were simply left  
16 helter-skelter.

17 And the waters themselves, Watts Bar Dam, there's  
18 a fishing advisory for mercury. Quite frankly, it's a place  
19 that you don't want to disturb anything because of all of  
20 the materials, including radiological materials, that are  
21 trapped in the sediments. This was a real problem. It is a  
22 real problem, because you can't go back and fix it.

23 And yet we had something that very much presented  
24 a problem and that was the coal ash spill. When the coal  
25 ash came down on top of these legacies sediments that have

1 radioactive materials as well as heavy metals and other  
2 things in them, we're in a problem. Because to vacuum up  
3 the coal ash one had to be very careful that one did not  
4 disturb these older sediments that were extremely toxic in  
5 their own right. And for that reason much of the coal ash  
6 was left on the bottom of the Tennessee River in the upper  
7 Watts Bar reservoir. So we have another permanent  
8 contribution to the poor water quality and the long-run  
9 release of toxic materials and radioactive materials in our  
10 river system. So there's a cumulative impact there.

11 All through this process there are cumulative  
12 impacts. I know those who deal with these materials want to  
13 say: Well, this has a relatively short half-life, it has a  
14 relatively quick dissipation, and so forth. But I don't  
15 believe that the health physicists have ever come to agree  
16 with the regulators that there is some sort of a safe dose  
17 of radioactivity; that any amount may in fact have a  
18 biological impact that is mutagenic.

19 I would just close by saying that I think that a  
20 restated and accurate No Action Alternative would be the  
21 best thing here; one that did not recognize that the present  
22 activities be confined to the Watts Bar 1 reactor and went  
23 no further. And if it were in the scope of this activity, I  
24 would suggest that we even stop that.

25 But I would finally suggest that as the Department

1 of Energy goes forward and as the Department of Defense --  
2 which is the eventual user of these weapons -- goes forward,  
3 they might look at this program as a program to be  
4 constrained and reduced, if not terminated, as part of our  
5 national efforts towards deficit reduction.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much.

8 Our next speaker is Ann Harris and she will be  
9 followed by Carol Green.

10 MS. ANN HARRIS: My name is Ann Harris. I'm  
11 speaking for the National Sierra Club and for the foundation  
12 We the People Incorporated of Tallahassee Florida.

13 The first thing that I want to ensure that you  
14 address is the security at Watts Bar. As most of you know,  
15 you've seen me in the security issue on CBS this summer.  
16 But there's a really nasty security issue that I can't  
17 believe that somebody is not smart enough to just walk in  
18 and see and do whatever they want to, when basically the  
19 only thing that you have between Unit 1 and Unit 2 at Watts  
20 Bar. We all know that they're joined at the hip. So a  
21 security must is an issue, and you've got deal with it, and  
22 you've got deal with it better.

23 I don't know whose representing the NRC here  
24 tonight. Is anybody here representing the NRC? They didn't  
25 show up? Well, bless their hearts. I wouldn't have either.

1 I'll send them a note.

2 But there's no security at Watts Bar between Unit  
3 1 and Unit 2. Not any significant security, when the only  
4 thing that's between the units to go back and forth and  
5 you've got to cross a yellow strip that says: Crime scene.  
6 That's not security. Not in something when we're talking  
7 about something this serious.

8 The other thing is then we put up some chicken  
9 wire. After I complained about that, then they put up some  
10 chicken wire. Jack, you need to see to this; you need to  
11 talk to Dave Simpson because this is unacceptable at Watts  
12 Bar.

13 There's not much better that's going to go on at  
14 Sequoyah, because there's major Sequoyah problems with  
15 security also; serious problems. I don't want to talk out  
16 of turn here in public, but I will put them in my formal  
17 comments, too. And whoever is in charge of TVA's -- they  
18 call themselves the tritium man at TVA. Is that you? Is  
19 that what I understood?

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

21 MS. HARRIS: Okay. You need to see to this,  
22 because this is serious. I mean, if I can walk up there  
23 unattended or nobody approaching me, that's beyond the pale.  
24 This is a nuclear weapons plant. You might not call it  
25 that, but that's what it is.

1           Now, you had major problems that NNSA -- I always  
2           want to call it NNSN -- somebody needs to call it something.  
3           But in 2003 you knew that there was a problem with the  
4           production at Watts Bar or there was going to be. Once the  
5           rods -- when you started putting in rods and they started to  
6           be radiated, whenever you started that production, there  
7           started to be massive problems.

8           For three long years you went from 300% above the  
9           legal limits of tritium into the river all of them up to  
10          above almost 700% above the legal limit. I have the  
11          documents on it. If you don't have it, the NRC has got  
12          them. They know about it. It's in their Effluent Report  
13          that you give them every year. And then they said that they  
14          were going to fix and clean up the river.

15          You can't clean up tritium. That's just an  
16          oxymoron. That just is something that gives the public a  
17          feel-good. You created a new waste stream. There's two  
18          things out of here. When you create these kinds of rods,  
19          this creates a whole new waste stream.

20          We do not have where the waste is -- we've not  
21          dealt with waste today any where from out of nuclear  
22          facilities. So you're just creating more problems here.  
23          You're not addressing that. Where is that waste going to?  
24          How is that going to be addressed? Even if it goes to those  
25          poor souls in South Carolina and you're just dumping on

1       them, you're creating two sacrifice zones here. You  
2       sacrificed the Chickamauga Reservoir when you put Watts Bar  
3       up there at the dam and then whenever you're going to put it  
4       in Sequoyah. That's a sacrifice zone to nuclear weapons.  
5       There's no other word for it.

6               Then to have the nerve to say that any exposure is  
7       okay; that there's nothing wrong with it. All you got to do  
8       is drink it. Well, it's going out into the river. You're  
9       shifting it down to the river. You're putting it out into  
10      the plants. There's farmers all the way down that river.  
11      There's all kinds of activities. That's water sources for  
12      several different small communities. They get their water  
13      out of that river. You're feeding them tritium into their  
14      sinks whenever they turn on either the bathroom or the  
15      kitchen sink to get a drink of water. So this idea that  
16      this is not a problem for people to be exposed to -- even on  
17      the NRC's website they tell us that there is no safe level  
18      of exposure to tritium. Period. You can read it yourself,  
19      if you don't see it.

20             Now these kinds of activities and for you to stand  
21      up here and tell us everything is okay. Okay, you meet the  
22      NRC's level of exposure. But what about us poor bastards  
23      sitting over there drinking this water. Don't we count? We  
24      should count. And you're not addressing that in the EIS  
25      that you're putting out.

1 Under the Clean Water Act there's a major disaster  
2 here. You admitted that this is a bad design -- this  
3 reactor is a bad design and it was the wrong reactors to put  
4 it in. And now you're going to complicate that same  
5 activity by repeating the same wrong activity again. Two  
6 wrongs does not make a right, and that's what's you're  
7 doing.

8 The Savannah River from around the tritium  
9 production from the '70s and '80s and into the early '90s.  
10 That river is dead. EPA declared it dead. They can't raise  
11 anything except some mud. The stuff that comes out of it is  
12 just not acceptable. You can't eat the fish. You can't --  
13 people can't swim in it. They tell them not to even go in  
14 it and touch the water. We get that out at Oak Ridge.

15 I just buried my mother with colon cancer where  
16 she was exposed in Oak Ridge. How do you think -- I know  
17 this is not a moral issue to you, but it is to us that live  
18 here. It's about morals and it's about what's right and  
19 wrong.

20 Now DOE said that they were going to determine the  
21 cause of what the problem with the TPBARs were whenever they  
22 went into Watts Bar, because you were supposed to be putting  
23 in like around 1200 and something. I can't remember now  
24 what it was supposed to hold. And then you end up doing  
25 four times the amount out of the reactor that you thought

1 you were going to get. Now, what engineer with a bad lead  
2 pencil and a short eraser miss that? It doesn't take  
3 anybody brilliant to figure that there's a problem here.  
4 And you wouldn't even stop it. Now you need to stop and see  
5 why this has happened and tell somebody. Do you know? Do  
6 you know? Does TVA know? Do you know what happened? Do  
7 you know why it happened that way. Everybody's sitting here  
8 looking at me like they don't know what I'm talking about.

9 This is just a wrong action. And then this  
10 continued idea that you can clean up what you screwed up  
11 using tritium does not make sense. Tell the American  
12 public. Tell these communities up and down this river that  
13 you do not, you do not, have the capabilities to clean up  
14 tritium. It is not right and you should tell them the  
15 truth. Quit telling the big lie. Just because you repeat  
16 it and often enough that you think you believe it, TVA and  
17 NNSA, does not make it right. It does not make it  
18 acceptable.

19 If everybody understands after a while that the  
20 big lie is not acceptable -- TVA, you even wrote up PURRS  
21 and CAPS over this issue. What did you do with them? Are  
22 they closed? Have you performed what you said you were  
23 going to do in this 2005 letter to the NRC? And TVA, you  
24 did not notify TDEC when this water -- when you screwed up  
25 the river down there. But in those three years you didn't

1 notify TDEC. That, in itself, tells me that you were trying  
2 hide. And that's unacceptable also. So this continued  
3 coverup, talking around what's right and what's wrong,  
4 that's not acceptable.

5 I'll put my formal comments in a letter to you.  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. HOLMES: Thanks very much. Okay, Ms. Carol  
8 Green and then Ralph Hutchison.

9 MS. CAROL GREEN: I'm Carol Green and I brought my  
10 shield: Defended Creation and Stop the Bombs.

11 I appreciate the fact that the United States of  
12 America allows we citizens like us, actually by law, we are  
13 granted the right to speak up at hearings like this.

14 It's come to my attention that the Tennessee  
15 Valley Authority and the Department of Energy and the  
16 National Nuclear Security Administration are scoping the  
17 intent to expand tritium production in the Watts Bar nuclear  
18 power plant and to add actual production at the Sequoyah  
19 reactor. And this tritium is for boosting the power of  
20 nuclear weapons, not energy.

21 Inasmuch as our country says Iran and other  
22 countries dare not do such crossing of the line from  
23 civilian plant to military weapons plant, how do we dare do  
24 this?

25 Why isn't the IAEA blocking this move? Where is

1 that international control agent when we crossed the line in  
2 1997 with the decision to start up tritium production at  
3 Watts Bar?

4 Now the TVA and the Department of Energy documents  
5 reveal that more than 30,000 curies of tritium have been  
6 released into the Tennessee River with no way of cleaning it  
7 up, which Ann Harris was very clear with. TVA's ash spill  
8 lesson is still with us.

9 To compound the situation, this Notice of Intent  
10 is to produce more tritium and is to do this at an  
11 additional site, increasing the pollution of the rivers  
12 which nourish animal and plant life and thousands of people  
13 downstream.

14 As a member of the United Methodist Church, I hold  
15 to our Social Principles which state in part in our document  
16 here: The manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments  
17 must be reduced and controlled; and the production,  
18 possession, or use of nuclear weapons must be condemned. We  
19 endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and  
20 effective international control.

21 Therefore, I appeal to the decision makers that  
22 making tritium for bombs is evil, increases the drain on the  
23 budget, adds to the possibility of terrorist attacks or  
24 accidental release, ruins the water of a mighty river  
25 system, and encourages other countries and rogue individuals

1 or groups to ignore the long international struggle to  
2 control, indeed to abolish, nuclear weapons. Making more  
3 weapons of mass, uncontrolled destruction does not serve our  
4 country nor our precious earth.

5 So I call for a stop of these plans. Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Ralph Hutchison is  
7 our next speaker.

8 MR. RALPH HUTCHISON: Thank you, Holmes, Curtis,  
9 Dan.

10 My name is Ralph Hutchison. I'm the coordinator  
11 of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance.

12 Preparing comments for tonight, for me, was  
13 difficult. There are obviously a lot of technical issues  
14 that need to be addressed; and, frankly, I was surprised --  
15 I read in the Notice of Intent that part of this document  
16 would be talking about attempt to mitigate tritium release  
17 and I didn't hear a word about that here tonight. I was  
18 hoping to actually get some substantive information, but I  
19 didn't. I hope you'll do a better job of communicating what  
20 your plans are instead of making us wait until we see a  
21 draft so we can comment after the fact.

22 There are dozens of questions I might ask. In  
23 fact, I did do several pages. But I'm sparring you. I hope  
24 I get some points for that. But I was drawn in a different  
25 direction this evening.

1           Over the last few weeks I have talked to several  
2 people who work at Tennessee Valley Authority in a variety  
3 of capacities. And every single person I've talked to has  
4 expressed a great discomfort with the idea of participating,  
5 even in a tangential supporting way, in the production of  
6 weapons of mass destruction. I've talked with people who  
7 fund TVA through their monthly electric bills and I've heard  
8 similar discomfort.

9           I realized there was a connection between these  
10 conversations that I've been having and a book that I was  
11 reading called The Honor Code.

12           TVA workers, at least the ones I know -- my  
13 daughter goes to school with their children -- are good  
14 people, they're educated and skilled, they're also  
15 thoughtful and reflective. They are engaged by their work,  
16 but also by their communities. And the responsibility that  
17 they show at work is just a reflection of who they are.  
18 They're just as responsible at home, with their families,  
19 and their communities when it is time to step up to coach a  
20 soccer team or serve on the board of directors of a  
21 non-profit or head a committee of their church or synagogue.

22           They live by a personal and social code of honor  
23 that can be stated in part as: We try to live life like  
24 people should live. We try to do what people should do.  
25 And I would guess that most of the people in this room

1 recognize this code and even recognize themselves in this  
2 code.

3 Honor codes don't exist in a vacuum. They exist  
4 between parties, between people, between social groups,  
5 between nations. They exist in relationships, even  
6 disparate ones. How we treat the earth is a matter of  
7 honor. Why not throw your trash out the window, if nobody's  
8 going to see you? Why not shoot the neighbor's dog that  
9 barks incessantly and roots through your trash, if you think  
10 you can do it and not be discovered?

11 That squirmy feeling you got when you learned the  
12 United States waterboards people. That was because we  
13 believe ourselves to be honorable people, and fundamental  
14 breaches of human dignity and due process are out-of-bounds  
15 of our honor system.

16 The baseline appeal of the Occupy movement that's  
17 building a foothold in so many cities around the United  
18 States and around the world is rooted in a recognition that  
19 the disparity between the very wealthy and the desperately  
20 poor is simply unacceptable. It offends our honor. The  
21 Occupy people are not as angry with wealthy people as they  
22 are angry with a system that creates the disparity; that  
23 rewards so few and denies opportunities to so many and, for  
24 the rest of us in the middle class, seems to have at least  
25 in the last few years been capricious and cruel with our

1 pensions and our investments and the value of our homes.

2 So my question tonight is more fundamental than  
3 the technical piece that the Supplemental EIS must address.  
4 I'm talking now to good people. I ask the leadership of  
5 TVA, which really has no dog in this hunt -- I don't know  
6 why you're doing this. I know you started out thinking  
7 you'd get money to build Bellefonte and you didn't get it.  
8 I talked to a member of your board of directors two weeks  
9 ago. He doesn't know why you're doing this.

10 But my question to the leadership of TVA is: How  
11 can you entrap your employees in a morally untenable  
12 situation and retain your honor?

13 I'd ask those who are preparing the SEIS: How can  
14 you square applying your technical, analytical, legal,  
15 grammatical skills to this document which becomes part of  
16 the paperwork undergirding the production of weapons of mass  
17 destruction and retain your honor?

18 I ask each of us living in the land of the free  
19 and home of the brave: How brave it is to gird ourselves  
20 with thermonuclear weapons by the thousands and yet deny  
21 other nations the right to defend themselves with comparable  
22 weapons? Where is our national honor?

23 When I was growing up, if the biggest person in  
24 the schoolroom threatened the littlest person in the  
25 schoolroom we recognized that as a dishonorable situation.

1           Maybe you don't have a sense of personal or  
2 national honor anymore. Maybe the slow and constant erosion  
3 of our moral code has stripped us of even this basic part of  
4 our humanity. Maybe we've come to believe it's all right  
5 for us to do whatever we want: deport the children of  
6 immigrants, murder hundreds of innocent people with drone  
7 attacks to get a few bad guys, execute arguably innocent  
8 people because they were unable to use the legal system in  
9 the way well-lawyered people can. Maybe we've erected walls  
10 around our minds so these things bounce off when we hear  
11 them night after night on the radio and TV news.

12           Maybe you wonder if the institution you work for  
13 is honorable. After all, when they discovered they were off  
14 by a factor of three on tritium releases, they just wrote up  
15 a couple of justifications, scaled back a little, and went  
16 on with business even though they could have stopped. Could  
17 have stopped with no impact whatsoever on national security.  
18 We haven't needed the tritium that's been produced so far.

19           I don't believe that we've lost our sense of  
20 personal honor. I believe that sense of honor lives within  
21 each of us. It's the part that wishes I would shut up right  
22 now and sit down. It's the part that maybe will disturb  
23 your sleep tonight, if you don't dull it with something.  
24 It's the part that I hope will distract you as you prepare  
25 your part of the Supplemental EIS. I believe a system of

1 honor even lives within the institutions that you work for.  
2 I believe your leadership wants to be honorable and the  
3 culture of your institution can be reshaped from within, if  
4 enough people demand it for the right reasons.

5           Tonight I ask you, please, to listen to your  
6 honor. It is pure and it will not deceive you. And if  
7 enough of us do that, we can make the world into what our  
8 honor tells us it should be. If enough people refuse to be  
9 part of bomb building, we one day won't have the bombs.  
10 We'll be okay. We'll find ways to live with people who  
11 respect our honor code. Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn are  
12 telling us we don't need the bombs anyway; they undermine  
13 the security we think we're buying with them.

14           The way to a more honorable life and a more  
15 honorable world is not without cost. I'm not naive. It  
16 might cost you a promotion, it might cost you the project, a  
17 few people might even lose their jobs. It doesn't have to  
18 be that way, but it likely would be if we embrace our honor.

19           But what you won't lose is your honor. You not  
20 only get to keep that, but you know that nobody can take it  
21 from you. No one can require it of you. And the story that  
22 you will one day have to tell to your children and  
23 grandchildren will move them to tears with pride when they  
24 learn who you are and what you did.

25           That is the simple power of honor and you possess

1 it.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. That actually  
4 concludes the list of folks who signed up to speak ahead of  
5 time. Let me ask if there's anyone else in the audience  
6 that would like to provided any public comment at this time.  
7 If so, you can step up to the mike and provide your name and  
8 affiliation. Anyone else?

9 Okay. We are actually scheduled to be here to  
10 respond to public questions and comments until ten o'clock.  
11 What we do at this point, if no one is currently wanting to  
12 speak, we will recess and folks will be available to talk  
13 about any questions you have, any comments. If someone else  
14 shows up later for the hearing and wants to offer a comment,  
15 we'll reconvene and officially record their comments.

16 So we'll stand adjourned. Please feel free to  
17 talk with staff and review the materials at the back.

18 Thanks very much.

19 (The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.)

20 (There being no further comments, the public meeting  
21 concluded at 10:00 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF TENNESSEE )

COUNTY OF KNOX )

I, JIMMIE JANE McCONNELL, LCR CLA, CCR(TN), Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of Knox, State of Tennessee at Large, do hereby certify that the above Public Scoping Meeting held on the 20th day of October, 2011, was reported by me, transcribed by me, and that the foregoing 26 pages is a true and correct transcript of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related to nor an employee of any parties; nor in any way financially interested in the outcome of this hearing.

I further certify that I am duly licensed by the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting as a Licensed Court Reporter as evidenced by the LCR number following my name found below.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 26th day of October, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmie Jane McConnell, LCR #001, CCR #0219  
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12804 Union Road, Knoxville, TN. 37934  
Phone: 865.675.1471 / Fax 675.6398  
Email: Jmcccon3590@aol.com

3215 Tuckaleechee Pike  
Maryville, Tennessee 37803  
20 October 2011

Curtis Chambelian  
Document Manager for the SEIS  
US DOE/NNSA  
Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

Mr. Chamberlian:

I appreciate the fact that in the United States of America, we citizens are, by law, granted the right to speak up at public hearings like the one being held in Athens, Tennessee.

It has come to my attention that the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Department of Energy, and the National Nuclear Security Administration are scoping the intent to expand tritium production in the Watts Bar nuclear power plant and to add production in the Sequoyah reactor. This is tritium for boosting the power of nuclear weapons, not making more energy.

In as much as our country says Iran and other countries dare not do such a thing as crossing the line from civilian plant to military weapons plant, how is it that we dare to do this?

Why isn't the IAEA blocking this move? Where was that international control agent when we crossed the line in 1997 with the decision to start up tritium production at Watts Bar?

Now the TVA/DOE documents reveal that more than 30,000 curies of tritium have been released into the Tennessee River with no way of cleaning it up. TVA's ash spill lesson is still with us.

To compound the situation, this notice of intent is to produce more tritium and do this in an additional site, increasing the pollution of rivers which nourish animal and plant life and thousands of people downstream.

As a member of the United Methodist Church, I hold to our Social Principles which state, in part: The manufacture, sale, and deployment of armaments must be reduced and controlled; and the production, possession, or use of nuclear weapons must be condemned. We endorse general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Therefore, I appeal to the decision makers that making tritium for bombs is evil, increases the drain on the budget, adds to the possibility of terrorist attacks or accidental release, ruins the water of a mighty river, and encourages other countries and rogue individuals or groups to ignore the long international struggle to control, indeed to abolish, nuclear weapons. Making more weapons of mass, uncontrolled destruction does not serve our country nor our precious earth.

I call for a stop in these plans.

Sincerely,  
  
Carol E. Green

RALPH HUTCHINSON  
CREPA

Preparing difficult, obvious technical  
frames. Dozens of questions. Drawn  
in another direction. (1)

Over the last few weeks I have talked to several people employed by TVA in a variety of capacities and every single one has expressed great discomfort with the idea of participating, even in a supporting way, in the production of weapons of mass destruction. I've talked with people who fund TVA through their monthly electric bills and heard similar discomfort.

I realized there was a connection between my conversations and a book I have been reading called *The Honor Code*.

TVA workers are, at least the ones I know, good people—educated and skilled, sure, but also thoughtful and reflective. They are engaged by their work, but also by their communities. The responsibility they show at work is a reflection of who they are—they are just as responsible at home, with their families, and in their communities when it is time to step up to coach a soccer team or sit on a non-profit Board of Directors.

They live by a personal and social code of honor that can be stated, at least in part, as “we try to live like people *should* live; we try to do what people *should* do.”

I would guess most of the people in this room recognize themselves in this description.

Honor Codes don't exist in a vacuum. They exist between parties—between people, between social groups, between nations. They exist in relationships, even disparate ones—how we treat the earth is a matter of honor. Why not throw your trash out the window if no one will see you? Why not shoot the neighbor's dog that barks incessantly and roots through your trash if you think you can do it and not be discovered?

That squirmy feeling you got when you learned the United States waterboards people—that was because we believe ourselves

to be honorable people, and fundamental breaches of human dignity and due process are out-of-bounds of our honor system.

The baseline appeal of the Occupy movement that is finding a foothold in so many cities in the US and around the world is rooted in a recognition that the disparity between the very wealthy and the desperately poor is simply unacceptable—it offends our honor. The Occupy people are not as angry with wealthy people as they are with a system that creates the disparity, that rewards so few, denies opportunities to so many and, for the rest of us in the middle class, seems to have caprice and cruelty built into it.

So my question tonight is more fundamental than the technical pieces the S-EIS must address. I am talking now to good people. I ask the leadership of TVA—which really has no dog in this hunt—how you can entrap your employees in a morally untenable situation and retain your honor?

I ask those who are preparing this S-EIS—how can you square applying your technical, analytical, legal, grammatical skills to this document which becomes part of the paperwork undergirding the production of weapons of mass destruction and retain your honor?

I ask each of us, living in the land of the free and the brave, how brave it is to gird ourselves with thermonuclear weapons of mass destruction by the thousands and yet deny other nations the right to defend themselves with comparable weapons? Where is our national honor?

Maybe you do not have a sense of personal or national honor any more. Maybe the slow and constant erosion of our moral code has stripped us of even this basic part of our humanity. Maybe we've come to believe it's all right for us to do whatever we want—deport the children of immigrants, murder hundreds of innocent people with drone attacks to get a few "bad" guys, execute arguably innocent people because they were unable to use the legal system the way well-lawyered people can—maybe we're erected walls around our minds so these things bounce off when

we hear them night after night on the radio or TV news.

Maybe you wonder if the institution you work for is honorable—after all, when they discovered they were off by a factor of three on tritium releases, they just wrote up a couple of justifications, scaled back a bit and went on with business even though they could have stopped with no impact on national security.

But I believe otherwise. I believe a sense of honor lives within each of us. It's the part that wishes I would shut up and sit down now, the part that will maybe disturb your sleep tonight if you don't dull it with something, the part that will distract you as you prepare your part of the S-EIS. I believe a sense of honor lives within the institutions you work for—your leadership wants to be honorable, and the culture can be re-shaped from within if enough people demand it for the right reasons.

Tonight I ask you, please, to listen to your honor. It is pure. It will not deceive you. If enough of us do, we can make the world into what our honor tells us it should be. If enough people refuse to be part of the bomb building, we one day won't have the bombs. We'll be okay. We'll find ways to live with people who respect our honor code. Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn telling us we don't need the bombs, anyway—they undermine the security we think we're buying with them.

The way to a more honorable life and a more honorable world is not without cost. It may cost you a promotion or a project; a few people may even lose their jobs—it doesn't have to be that way, but it likely will.

What you won't lose, though, is your honor. You not only get to keep that, you'll know that no one can take it from you, and no one can require it of you. The story you will have to tell to your children and grandchildren one day will bring them to tears with pride in who you are and what you did.

This is the simple power of honor, and you possess it.