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For Immediate Release
January 16, 2008

Department of Energy Calls for Public Comment on Complex Transformation SPEIS – Peace Action Responds with a call for Nuclear Abolition

(Washington, DC – 1/16/08) – The Department of Energy has dedicated a 90 day comment period to the Bush Administration's proposed nuclear weapons production facility formally known as Complex 2030. This comes despite Congressional action zeroing out funding for the reliable replacement warhead, a new nuclear weapon, associated with the \$150 million nuclear complex.

Recent polls by World Public Opinion show 79% of the American people want to see the U.S. government do more to eliminate nuclear weapons. Peace Action is among 68 other groups engaging the public to use this comment period to support nuclear abolition and U.S. compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Across the nation, Peace Action Affiliates will hold community meetings to discuss the project and collect comments for the DOE. Peace Action supporters in California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas will present their opinions at DOE hearings in those states. The Peace Action online campaign is expected to reach over 100,000 nuclear abolition activists.

"Tens of thousands of Americans will write the Department of Energy in the next three months to tell them that they refuse to have nuclear weapons built in their backyard. Instead it is time to dismantle nuclear weapons rather than build new ones," claimed Paul Kawika Martin, Peace Action's political director.

The comment campaign will continue through the appointed 90 day period culminating in a final hearing in Washington, DC at which Peace Action's national office will issue a statement on behalf of the network. The statement will call for the U.S. government to: stop the Complex Transformation project, increase dedication to nuclear abolition, and invest resources into nuclear cleanup and renewable energy programs.

BACKGROUND

- The Nuclear Complex to be transformed is made up of facilities scattered across the country at 8 major locations with missions as diverse as laboratory work, explosives testing, and nuclear weapons component manufacturing.
- Complex Transformation would include a major new facility—the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) at Los Alamos National Lab—to build 50-80 warhead cores (plutonium "pits") per year, violating the spirit of U.S. commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Article 6 which encourages disarmament.
- The 2007 JASON pit lifetime study confirmed that existing pits could last 100 years or more making the Complex Transformation project an unnecessary expense for an indebted Federal Government.
- Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. government have yet to complete mandated nuclear policy reviews necessary to assess how the U.S. should move into the future regarding nuclear weapons.
- Increased production of plutonium pits, through Complex Transformation, will lead to increased risk to national security, public health, and the environment.
- Expanding our current nuclear weapons program sends the wrong message to other Nations, like North Korea, with whom we are negotiating over nuclear disarmament.

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