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Toward a Sustainable Future

Talking Points Opposing Nuclear Weapons
With Recommendations
(A Kansas City Perspective)

Complex Transformation (CT) is the Bush Administration's plan to seek funds to restructure and rebuild the Nuclear Weapons Complex. It is an attempt to build the next generation of nuclear weapons under the guise of making them more reliable and useable. The Honeywell Kansas City Plant (KCP) has been called "the lynchpin" of the nuclear weapons industry.

The whole concept of CT is based on lies generated to convince our elected officials and the public that useable nuclear weapons are needed and that production facilities should be updated. However, the nuclear weapons arsenal has been shown to be in tact and viable by the Scientific Advisory Group called JASON. CT has been explained as "consolidation" but takes the existing eight plants and moves them to eight new plants.

Employment has been sited by our elected officials for keeping these plants in operation. The KCP employed 8,000 in the 1980's which has dwindled to 2650 and will be diminished to 2000 at the new plant. Also, building Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) is not only immoral and dangerous to the environment, but not sustainable. According to their website KCP can build anything. Why can't this include good paying jobs in the production of technology for verification of nuclear security or alternative energy production? Their website also boasts of their commitment to the community and environmental protection proving their complete disconnect with reality.

All over the country hearings have been held where tens of thousands of citizen taxpayers have turned out expressing their opposition to CT. In KC the citizens have been left out of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement required by NEPA. Where the citizens have had a chance to express their opinion, it has been overwhelmingly opposed.

It seems obvious to state that nuclear weapons are not usable. Use of them would end the world as we know it. The devastating effects would be nuclear winter, famine and disease, plus the land would not be usable for thousands of years. Even a small regional nuclear war would kill thousands of millions indiscriminately. Using them would amount to suicide and murder. In the U.S., more than 15,600 square miles are occupied by the nuclear weapons industry. Loss of use due to spills and leaks are widespread. Beryllium, pcbs and radiation contaminations

have caused cancers, congenital defects and respiratory disease. Plans for waste disposal are not in place, money for clean-up is not in budget proposals and people who are sick are not being compensated.

Money is being diverted away from human needs. 12 Trillion dollars has been spent so far on Nuclear Weapons worldwide. Issues of poverty, education and healthcare could have been solved with a fraction of that money. Complex Transformation amounts to a “bailout” of the nuclear weapons industry. The cost has been grossly underestimated because cleanup has not been included. It is estimated at \$300 Billion to clean up the entire complex.

The new plant in KC is estimated to cost \$500 million, but the cost for clean-up at the old plant has been estimated at \$287 million which has not been included in the budget. The Honeywell president in 2005 said that the plant was experiencing “it’s heaviest workload in 20 years.” (this, after the cold war is over) The U.S. spends \$110 million a day on its nuclear forces. We must halt the drain on our resources. Our unsustainable economy is based on violence and war.

Nuclear weapons are obsolete. Mutually assured destruction is not a reasonable deterrent in the age of terrorist bombs in suitcases. Fissile materials have been stolen, and bombs have been lost. 300 Kilograms of Plutonium $\frac{3}{4}$ has been lost from the Los Alamos Lab, enough to make 60 bombs. Keeping these materials safe is not 100% feasible. Accidental detonation is a looming threat because of the high alert status of many warheads. We are not safer due to nuclear weapons, on the contrary, the longer nuclear weapons are in existence the bigger is the chance that one will be detonated on purpose or by accident.

As long as the U.S. produces WMD’s others will want them. We can’t keep telling North Korea, Iran and others they cannot have them when we continue to produce and update them. This leads to worldwide instability. The U.S., being the most powerful nation, should lead by example. We should help other nations, not threaten them. By so doing we will regain the respect of the world. We should diminish the role of nuclear weapons in military doctrine and in foreign policy. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty committed the United States to work toward a goal of nuclear disarmament and is the law of the land. Complex Transformation undermines these agreements with the Global Community.

Recommendations:

Defund Complex Transformation; take all warheads off high alert to avoid false alarms and accidental detonation, investigate the “loss” of nuclear materials; sign and adhere to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; stick to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and increase dismantlement; clean up sites and make reparations to those communities whose soil and water have been contaminated and whose people have been made ill; meet human needs for shelter, education and health care; retool for alternative energy that is non-nuclear to keep radioactive materials out of the environment and out of the hands of terrorists; create sustainable jobs; talk and use diplomacy to promote democratic openness. Support HR2641”Comprehensive Nuclear Security Plan”

We should heed the warnings of distinguished leaders as well. From all around the world hundreds have warned of the dangers inherent in relying on nuclear weapons for security.

Let us leave a legacy of the sane values of democracy, accountability and sustainability that serve all of humanity.

Resources:

Alliance For Nuclear Accountability www.ananuclear.org

Arms Control Association, www.armscontrol.org

British American Security Information Council, www.basicint.org

www.commondreams.org

Federal Registry, Vol. 72, No 83 May 1, 2007

Friends Committee on National Legislation, www.fcnl.org

www.gsa.gov/kansascityplant

Honeywell Corp., www.honeywell.com

The Kansas City Plant, www.kcp.com

KC Star article, Oct. 25, 2007

www.middlepowers.org

New America Foundation www.newamerica.net

www.nonukes.org

Nuclear Information and Resource Service, www.nirs.org

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, www.wagingpeace.org

Nuke Watch, New Mexico www.nukewatch.org

Peace Action, www.peace-action.org

The Sojourner, www.sojo.net

Comments can be sent via email to Complex2030@nnsa.doe.gov or to Theodore A. Wyka, Complex 2030 SEIS Document Manager, Office of Transformation, U.S. Department of Energy, NA-1-1, 1000 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington DC 20585