

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LoBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLJNE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, M.D., LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
TOM ROONEY, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT RIGELL, VIRGINIA
CHRIS GIBSON, NEW YORK
VICKY HARTZLER, MISSOURI
JOE HECK, NEVADA
BOBBY SCHILLING, ILLINOIS
JON RUNYAN, NEW JERSEY
AUSTIN SCOTT, GEORGIA
TIM GRIFFIN, ARKANSAS
STEVEN PALAZZO, MISSISSIPPI
ALLEN B. WEST, FLORIDA
MARTHA ROBY, ALABAMA
MO BROOKS, ALABAMA
TODD YOUNG, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVE LOEBSACK, IOWA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
BILL OWENS, NEW YORK
JOHN R. GARAMENDI, CALIFORNIA
MARK S. CRITZ, PENNSYLVANIA
TIM RYAN, OHIO
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, MARYLAND
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
COLLEEN HANABUSA, HAWAII

ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Ed Markey
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Markey:

When you introduced H.R. 3974 on the floor of the House last week, you said it is "insane" to modernize and replace the uranium and plutonium processing facilities that support the U.S. nuclear deterrent when "the plants we have now work just fine." I invite you to join me on a trip to tour Building 9212 at Y-12 and the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) facility at Los Alamos National Lab, the facilities that you say "work just fine." I believe that you will see first-hand that your statements do not reflect the deteriorating circumstances of the facilities.

Building 9212, which conducts critical work with uranium, was opened in August 1945—66 years ago, just as World War II was ending. The CMR building, which conducts key plutonium science experiments supporting the nation's stockpile stewardship program, opened at Los Alamos in 1952—just a few years after the Soviet Union tested its first nuclear weapon.¹ In 2009, the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, composed of highly respected experts from both sides of the aisle and co-chaired by former Defense Secretaries William Perry and James Schlesinger, said the "facilities are genuinely decrepit and are maintained in a safe and secure manner only at high cost."

It is simply a failure of leadership that the dedicated engineers, scientists, and technicians who ensure the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear weapons must work in such deplorable facilities.

Whether you agree with President Obama's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons or not, he is likely correct that "this goal will not be reached quickly—perhaps not in [his] lifetime." And as the enclosed pictures show, the existing plutonium and uranium facilities will not outlive

¹ The Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) at Y-12 and the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) building are intended to replace these 60 year old, decrepit facilities with modern infrastructure that will ensure the safety, security, and reliability of our nuclear deterrent for the future.

The Honorable Ed Markey

February 15, 2012

Page 2

us. Without replacements, we will, at some point in the not-too-distant future, be unable to ensure the safety or security of the nuclear deterrent. If either of these facilities were to fail, the United States would find itself, simply put, without the capability required to remain a nuclear weapons state.

I look forward to working with you to find a date for our trip.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL R. TURNER
Chairman, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
House Armed Services Committee

cc: The Honorable Barbara Lee
The Honorable Hansen Clarke
The Honorable Jesse L. Jackson, Jr
The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark
The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey
The Honorable Rush D. Holt
The Honorable Bob Filner
The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Robert A. Brady
The Honorable Dennis J. Kucinich
The Honorable John Lewis
The Honorable John Conyers, Jr
The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Bruce L. Braley
The Honorable Jared Polis
The Honorable Michael M. Honda
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
The Honorable Barney Frank
The Honorable Keith Ellison
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop
The Honorable James P. McGovern

The Honorable Ed Markey

February 15, 2012

Page 3

The Honorable James P. McGovern

The Honorable Laura Richardson

The Honorable John W. Olver

The Honorable Jim McDermott

The Honorable Donald M. Payne

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen

The Honorable John F. Tierney

The Honorable Sam Farr

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings

The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel

**Enclosure 1 – Photos of Building 9212 at the Y-12 National Security Complex, TN
(opened 1945)**



This 120/208 volt lighting panel was installed in Building 9212 in the mid-1940s.



This 480-volt motor control center was installed in Building 9212 in the early 1950s.

Enclosure 1



Rusting 120/208 volt lighting panel due to the chemical environment in parts of Building 9212.



An estimated 30 heating and air handling units are 30 years old and still being used at Building 9212.

Enclosure 1



Some electric panels installed in Building 9212 in the 1940's are still in use, and the only replacement parts that exist come from similar panels that have been removed.



Workers in hazardous materials suits fixing a rusted valve in the basement of Building 9212.

Enclosure 2 – Photos of Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) building at Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM (opened 1952)



Leaking and corroded pipes, fittings, and valves in CMR basement and attic—repaired with tape, plastic sheeting, and paint.

Enclosure 2



Corroded equipment at CMR, including laboratory analytical chemistry hoods.

Enclosure 2



Asbestos hazards at CMR in walls and pipe coverings.

Enclosure 2



CMR structural deterioration, including concrete cracks and water leakage.