

"PUBLIC DESERVES MORE FROM Y-12"
The Oak Ridger
March 10, 2004

In recent weeks, Dennis Ruddy, manager of the Y-12 nuclear weapons complex, and Jean Burleson of Wackenhut Security assured the public that the facility was secure against terrorist threats. They were responding to reports that security testing at the facility was rife with cheating and failure made by my organization - the Project On Government Oversight - and the Department of Energy Inspector General.

At the same time that Ruddy and Burleson were glossing over security problems, DOE was in the process of dispatching a highly specialized team to delve into security weaknesses and missing weapons-grade uranium at Y-12. The team included experts in guard force effectiveness, physical security systems such as cameras and sensors, and inventory control.

Actions speak louder than words. And DOE Headquarters doesn't come knocking unless the situation is bad. Furthermore, closed Congressional hearings were held in Washington, D.C. last week in response to the recent events at Y-12.