

John Ainslie

From: [REDACTED]
To: John Ainslie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Email enquiry for ArmsControlWonk
Attachments:

Sent: Wed 13/02/2008 20:17

Dear John:

I think we have solved our mystery. I had been working on this from my end with the intention of blogging it at some point -- so please keep me posted on your journalist friend.

One slide and three statements by Tom D'Agostino resolve the issue, linking fogbank to ACN as a solvent and to the interstage of the warhead, where x-rays are used to create the conditions to compress the secondary. It would seem to me that Fogbank is Howard Morland's "exploding styrofoam."

This is the slide. <http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/docs/RRW%20Features.pdf>

Although I believe that the "Anglicized W76" probably uses Fogbank, D'Agostino indicated that they could outsource production of the interstage material (presumably at some weight penalty). The UK may have a heavier warhead for this reason or perhaps has considered such an option.

The quotes are below; Emphasis is mine.

Tom D'Agostino in March 2007.

Finally, there is a material that we currently use and it's in a facility that we built at Y -- it's a small facility we built at Y-12. It's a very complicated material that -- call it the **fog bank**. That's not classified, but it's a material that's very important to, you know, our life extension activity. And we are spending a lot of money as part of the LAP in making -- trying to be able to produce that material, and we are not out of the woods yet. And it's a material that uses a **cleaning agent that is extremely flammable**. And in fact, we had to build a separate spillway, external, because if this stuff ever caused a problem we would want -- we would have to put it in this area. It's expensive to operate and maintain that facility.

My ideal world would be -- I don't have to make that material anymore. I don't have to deal with these chemicals anymore. I can take advantage of outsourcing as -- in fact, one of the things on the RRW -- in a closed session I would talk about what we would outsource on this -- what we think we can outsource on this weapons system that would reduce cost. Want to take advantage of all those things.

On March 28, 2007.

There's another material in the -- it's called **interstage material**, also known as **fog bank**, but the chemical details of course are classified.

That's a facility that we currently have right now. It's a very complicated process. I use that to **support the Navy's program**. It takes a tremendous effort to operate this facility. It's dealing with toxic materials -- hazardous to our workforce -- but it's required. It's the way we did things back in the Cold War. The RRW will allow us to not have to develop and maintain that capability. And that's very important because that's got a long-term cost to run and it's got an impact on our workforce, just like the case material.

June 15, 2007

We have another material that **requires a special solvent to be cleaned. It's -- the chemical term is ACN**. But that solvent is very volatile. It's very dangerous. It's explosive. And I'm required to use it because that's what we used 30, 40, 50 years ago, when we made this special material. And so these are the kinds of things that I can eliminate.

On Feb 13, 2008 10:46 AM, John Ainslie <John.Ainslie@banthebomb.org> wrote:



8/20/08
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Attached is a paper on what I have pull together on this. The footnotes are still incomplete.