

## DOE says no to using Y-12 "heavy water" for SNS research

*DOE is as short-sighted as any. They rely on mindless clerks to read procedures.*

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There's "heavy water" sitting at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant on the Oak Ridge Reservation, but federal officials say scientists at the nearby Spallation Neutron Source will have to find some elsewhere for their research.

The water is preferred for nuclear research because it does not absorb neutrons.

Heavy water's use and movement is restricted because it can be used in reactors to refine uranium and plutonium to the purity necessary for nuclear weapons.

A request by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to use water from stockpiles at Y-12 was rejected by the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Now the laboratory has filed a procurement request to buy at least 20 tons of heavy water through the Energy Department, beginning a process that must wait until the 2007 budget cycle.

No operations in the U.S. currently produce enough heavy water for the project and it would probably have to be purchased from makers in places like Canada, India, Russia or Argentina.