

Monday, June 05, 2000

Dusty Gres
1100 Deen Landing Road
Baxley, GA 31513

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Chris Grimes
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

The Edwin R. Hatch Nuclear Power Plant, located in Appling County (Baxley) Georgia is currently undergoing the license renewal process. There was a public hearing held on this issue in Vidalia, GA, however, due to previous scheduling conflicts I was unable to attend. I do wish, however, to address to you my thoughts and concerns on this issue and write in favor of and support of the application.

I reside in Appling County on the Altamaha River, three miles from the Plant. I am Director of the Ochoopee Regional Library System, which serves Toombs, Tattnall & Montgomery counties – all counties which are impacted by the Plant, both in terms of services to personnel, information services for local inhabitants, and the location of the counties within the impact area of the Plant. I am an active member of the Altamaha Riverkeepers, my husband is one of the charter members, and is currently serving on their Board.

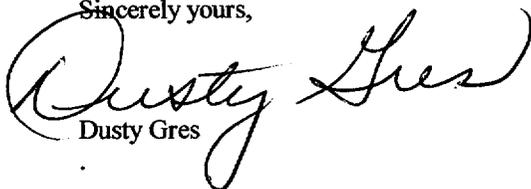
While I have concerns about the on-site storage of the nuclear waste, I feel that the Plant is taking every caution to make it as safe as possible and all Plant personnel have been very forthcoming with information concerning their methods and procedures for the storage. I am more concerned with the lack of support and response from the Commission itself as well as the lack of Congressional support in taking care of the problem on a national level.

I have lived near other types of power plant facilities, including a coal-fired plant. The dust, smoke, and smell from that type of facility are far worse in actual fact than any implied problem from Plant Hatch. In the three years I have lived with Plant Hatch as a near neighbor I have been extremely impressed with their policies in relation to the care of the natural environment. They have an active program of saving and encouraging wildlife on Plant property. While canoeing down the river past the Plant, I have personally identified several rare and/or endangered plant and animal species being cared for on plant property.

The Plant personnel have been extremely supportive of local nonprofit organizations, including my library, and the economic gains are important in this area. I know I can say without hesitation that my property taxes would be significantly higher if the Plant did not provide an economic tax base for my county.

Problems abound, and I am not putting my head in the sand over this issue. I do believe, however, that the benefits outweigh the risks.

Sincerely yours,


Dusty Gres

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