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From: "Judy Hogan" <judyhogan@mindspring.com>
To: <chatlist@ntrnet.net>
Date: Fri, Feb 9, 2001 9:47 AM
Subject: Re: Chatham County Online Chatlist #845

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This is in response to the message from Bill Carraway, item #3 in Chatlist #845.

Dear Bill,

I, too, believe that the Harris plant does its best to guard the reactor and the storage pools. And I'm glad! I would note, however, that a citizen of Cary who spoke in December 1999 before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission noted that the guards hired were hired in a way similar to mall guards, etc. What he learned by talking to plant personnel about the guards was not reassuring. Also not that long ago CP & L hired some guards with no background checks--this was written about in N & O, and it was corrected fairly quickly by CP & L.

But let's assume for purposes of argument that they have good security. The issue is not whether the pools can be adequately guarded from a breach of security, terrorism, etc, though that is a concern in some people's minds. The issue is water. If you store these hot rods in water, very close together, and I heard the scientist explain that CP & L is planning to store them 1-3 inches apart with only a shield between them, our safety in the community depends on those pools not losing water. If they were stored in dry casks at the generating reactors, this would not be the worry it is. They have to be stored in water 5 years, but they don't all have to be at Harris and they don't have to store everything in the pools!

In NC we do have serious weather problems, electricity outages, and water supply problems at such times. At Harris they have backup generators, true, but the backup generators, for instance, failed down at the CP&L Brunswick plant near Wilmington in the last year, leaving their pools without adequate water for some hours. If the pools aren't so closely packed, then you have more time to deal with water loss, but such densely packed pools, already pretty dense at Harris, at about 3 inches apart, will tend to catch fire in a fairly short time, a matter of hours. Gordon Thompson's evidence, which he was not allowed to present to NRC was related to this danger of a pool fire, which the NRC now acknowledges as a possibility. Thompson's contention is that the Harris plant would not be able to control a pool fire because other systems would go out. Should there be a pool fire, it would release 10 times the amount of Cesium 137, the most damaging to human life, that was released at Chernobyl.

I'm not a hysteric. I've been learning about this issue for over two years. It's hard to face and think about. I invite citizens to do so now! And to come to the Chatham Commissioners meeting Feb. 19 at 7 PM in Courthouse Annex. Judy Hogan

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY) Docket No. 50-400-LA
)
(Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant))

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENT OF JUDY HOGAN have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, or through NRC internal distribution.

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Docket No. 50-400-LA
LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENT
OF JUDY HOGAN


Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 12th day of February 2001