



Ozark Chapter / Sierra Club

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50-186

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Events Assessment et al Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

July 9, 2001

Mr. Adams or other:

I am in receipt of a document entitled "United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, University of Missouri - Columbia, Docket No. 50-186, University of Missouri - Columbia Research Reactor, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact". The document is also labeled "Predecisional Copy" at the top and bottom of every page...which indicates that this is a "draft".

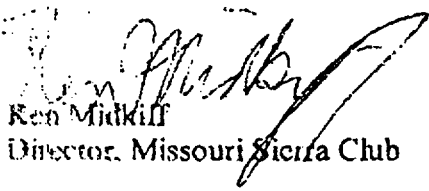
Apparently, the UMC Reactor has asked for a five year (!) extension of its operating license in order to accommodate the provisions of Construction Permit No. CPPR-68. This in itself would be a serious concern, since the purposed, contents and conditions of the Construction Permit are unknown, but this extension request also comes during a period when the current operation of this facility is a matter of local controversy.

There have been allegations of stifling "whistle-blowers, unpermitted releases of radioactive emissions in apparent violation of NRC regulations, and conflicts-of-interest involving the Director of the Facility and other parties (Tamara Crockett, Karen Deutsch, and MOPEIT). These issues are of no small consequence, and should be resolved PRIOR TO any decision or predecision to extend licensing.

In addition to my position as Director of the Missouri Sierra Club, I also live approximately 1/4 mile from the Reactor. My personal vulnerability to malfunctions at this facility leads to a doubling of concerns.

In the interest of full public review and comment, I request that the "predecisional" Environmental Assessment be made a DRAFT Environmental Assessment and re-issued with a comment period of at least 30 days. In addition, the DRAFT EA should be mailed to all persons living within 2 miles of this facility.

Thank you.


Ken Midkiff
Director, Missouri Sierra Club

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