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From: "Jim Matthews" <aatlas@perigee.net>
To: <McGuireEIS@nrc.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 22, 2001 11:20 AM
Subject: McGuire Nuclear Station EIS

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Gentlemen:

I have serious reservations about the use of MOX fuel at McGuire Nuclear Station. If there is a chance that MOX fuel will be used, the operating licenses for units one and two should NOT be extended.

The MOX Scoping Report did not consider the threat of terrorist attacks on plutonium fuel. After the September eleventh terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D. C., I do not think the NRC can afford to be so complacent.

Even disregarding terrorist attacks, shipping plutonium is still dangerous. What if a plutonium bearing truck collides head-on with a tractor trailer and plunges into Lake Norman? The accident scenarios are endless. We do not need plutonium in North Carolina.

The high temperature of the water discharged into Lake Norman is a negative effect that cannot be ignored. Instead of fixing the problem, Duke merely lobbied for an exemption from the law. Skirting the law is becoming all too common for Duke Energy.

The biggest threat to the environment and population is Duke's poor relationship with its employees. Morale has been going downhill for at least five years, and it continues to deteriorate each day. It is unreasonable to think that Duke's confrontational management style will never have an impact upon nuclear safety. Duke's management has proven that they cannot be trusted by breaking their word to long term employees. They broke benefits promises made for thirty years.

Duke has been cutting corners and making questionable business deals for at least five years. At what point will putting profits ahead of all else effect nuclear safety? Duke Energy is under investigation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the California attorney general, the California Public Utility Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Labor, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Treasury Department, the General Accounting Office, the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the South Carolina Utilities Commission, and the Environmental Protection Agency. And, Duke is facing numerous law suits. One does not get this many agencies on their trail by doing the right thing.

Duke's spokespeople twist, distort, and manipulate the facts at every opportunity. One of the most blatant statements made by a spokesperson was that a jetliner crashing into a nuclear reactor would produce no consequences! The spokesperson then said that the security force could handle all emergencies! This comes very close to outright lying to the public. How can the NRC possibility trust them?

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The spent fuel storage problem is reason enough to decline the licenses renewal request. The Nitrogen-16 EMF radiation detectors at McGuire are picking up gamma rays from the spent fuel dry casks. This was not supposed to happen. What other little surprises will develop from storing spent fuel in dry casks? The problem is not getting better; it is getting worse.

I ask the NRC not to rubber stamp Duke's licenses renewal for McGuire. If they are granted a renewal, make them earn it. If they are not granted a licenses renewal, it may be the best thing for the people of North Carolina. Thank you.