

Comments at Peach Bottom - July 31, 2002

I received the Draft Report for Comment of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants regarding Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3. This is not a reader friendly document and I had trouble locating points of interest.

There was no mention of my question regarding an evacuation plan for the Amish in the event of a nuclear accident. I found no mention of my request that past performance of the plant be taken into account, including control room operators sleeping on the job. There was no mention of my concern of the danger of spent radioactive fuel being stored on site.

There was no mention of my comments about the problems with the emergency warning sirens. In an NRC document dated August 15, 2001, it is noted, "...two former contract technicians deliberately falsified siren testing maintenance records and performed inadequate siren tests while professing that all activities on siren records were properly done; and (2) one of those technicians knowingly installed jumper wires to bypass failure detection circuitry on at least 10 siren boxes which would demonstrate the sirens were working properly, even if they were not."

It is my opinion that the NRC had already decided to renew the license of the Peach Bottom Power plant when they received the application. The only reason meetings are held is to meet a requirement. Sam Gejdenson, the former chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee on Oversight, said about the NRC, "On a number of occasions, the commission has acted as if it were the advocate for, and not the regulator of, the nuclear industry."

I continue to be concerned about an earthquake given the proximity of the Martic (not "Martick" as erroneously spelled in the draft) fault line. According to a Lancaster New Era article on July 1, 1994, corrosive cracks found inside a Peach Bottom reactor "...could cause a meltdown during an accident or earthquake, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said today." "...cracks in the York County nuclear reactor are expected to grow and will have to be monitored, the NRC said." "...NRC officials also warn that the cracks could lead to a meltdown if they shift during an accident or natural disaster." I could find no mention of this in the draft report for comment.

I would still like to know how many accidental releases of radiation have occurred at Peach Bottom since it began operations. I would like to know the type of radiation and the amount of each release. The draft report does not address this in detail.

I would like to have data on cancer cases, birth defects and stillbirths in a ten mile radius of the plant and compare this information to the national average. The draft report does not address this in detail.

I would like to know the types of radioactive isotopes at the plant and half-life of these isotopes. Are Strontium 90 and Strontium 89 the only radioactive isotopes at the plant? The draft report notes the "socioeconomic" problems

associated with the shutdown and decommissioning of Peach Bottom. However if a power plant were to operate around the same area using renewable resources, such a plant would need a large number of employees who would probably be just as involved in the community as the current Peach Bottom employees.

I do not agree with the conclusion of the draft report which notes the impact of renewing the license of Peach Bottom would have a small impact on land use, ecology, water use and quality, air quality and waste. I do not agree the use of renewable resources at the same site would have a greater impact on the environment than the current plant.

Since the Peach Bottom Plant is located on the edge of the great east coast megalopolis, an accident could have a devastating effect on millions of people. We need to shut down and decommission the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station before a horrible accident occurs.

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