

I am here today to represent the York County Greens. Unlike many of the others you will hear today, we are not experts in nuclear issues. We are learning day by day, website by website, e-mail by e-mail what is going on in the nuclear industry in the York County and Aiken areas, and we are appalled at what we find.

The idea that Duke Energy, which has been implicated in the fleecing of California ratepayers and taxpayers last summer, would be given the responsibility to undertake such a program is problematic.

We are further outraged that the NRC would take seriously the proposition that we should choose power generators so close to our homes and use them in this risky experiment. To add insult to injury, the federal government is using this plutonium fuel process to line the pockets of identifiable corporations in the process.

Not only Duke, but the fiscally challenged Stone and Webster and the French concern with a dubious record of compliance, COGEMA, are also questionable as partners in such a risky enterprise.

*Brought
Duke to PSC*

There is clear evidence that a terrorist attack or accident that resulted in a release at one of these plants would be twice as harmful as the current situation. While we would prefer the closing of each of these, and all other, nuclear power stations around the planet as soon as it can be safely accomplished, we think it particularly egregious that our taxpayer money will be used to put our families and communities in harms way.

As I said before, we are not experts, but average citizens trying to look out for our communities. We are not blind to the fact that Duke is involved in the development of land along the lakes that host their power plants. The fact that the local governments have no effective way to empty this area in the event of a release means that there is no excuse for their continued operation.

How DARE you use our tax dollars to do this? These power plants are ice cooled, and are unsafe with ANY fuel. How DARE you tell our people that we are not going to get an effective evacuation system, that we are not going to get higher security, such as encapsulation of waste material, that we are not going to get full value for our families in the event of an accident, that we are not going to get any consideration of

immobilization and permanent removal of plutonium from the biosphere, but we have to PAY YOU guys to boot?

We believe the people of York County and the people of the Aiken area are being put in danger to make profits for Duke, COGEMA, and Stone and Webster, their top executives, and the top shareholders. We think it is obscene that these companies would do this to us, and believe that the people of the areas effected are waking to the dangers we are being asked to bear, and to the lack of benefits to anyone but the companies that stand to make undeserved profits.

This is a bad plan and should be stopped. There is no way that a serious examination of nuclear power as a concept will stand up to scrutiny. Since the idea of splitting atoms to boil water is so stupid on it's face, it's difficult to find common ground with the plutonium fuel project. There's pretty much nothing that the companies involved, nor the NRC, can say which would be likely to persuade the York County Greens that a nuclear power plant is a good idea, much less one that will be expected to use a fuel it was not designed to use.

Finally, the Green Party is founded on the Ten Key Values. One of those key values is Peace/Non-violence. The Augusta Chronicle has published an article in which an industry spokesperson announced that there were plans being made which might bring a plant to the Savannah River Site to build plutonium pits. These pits represent another step towards the rearming of the United States with a new generation of unholy nuclear weapons.

Again, how DARE you put our communities, our families in danger by making our state the heart of the nuclear weapons industry? Do you think we don't realize that nothing good can come from our being the Merchants of War? Your plans to turn our people into cogs in the military industrial complex, which is rejected by anti-globalization and labor activists, are an affront to everything we believe the United States should represent. And again, for this you want our tax dollars!

Let's be clear. We want nuclear power plants shut down, we want new sources of electric generation to be funded, we want resources made available so average people can prepare for a time when the price of electricity better reflects it's real costs.

The idea that the NRC would give the time of day to an EIS that doesn't address serious health effects on the target community, with the exception of an inadequate job of addressing cancer, is astounding. The people on the NRC staff have seen requests to address these other issues, but choose not to move. Why? It cannot be time, for finding the answers to the questions would take less time than there is available before they must move on the issue. It can't be cost, for a full evaluation of this project, complete with fair funding of groups in opposition at the applicant's expense, would not represent even a tiny fraction of the costs of any of these programs. The only conclusion we can come to is that these questions are not being answered out of fear over what the answers might be. We don't believe that nuclear power will survive serious analysis, and that the plutonium fuel plan is totally unacceptable.