



Working to Protect and Preserve the Gulf of Mexico

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February 9, 2004

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

12/31/03
68 FR 75656
18

Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

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Re: Early Site Permit for new nuclear reactor at Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant, Port Gibson, Miss.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Gulf Restoration Network (GRN) is a network of local, regional, and national environmental, social justice, and public interest groups and individuals dedicated to empowering people to protect and restore the ecological and biological integrity of the Gulf of Mexico. Network members hail from each of the Gulf states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and beyond. The GRN opposes the current permit under consideration for the proposed expansion of the permit for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant located near Port Gibson, Mississippi

Entergy has publicly admitted that by the year 2007 it will no longer have the capacity to store on-site the radioactive waste generated by the current Grand Gulf reactor. Additionally, it is well known that Yucca Mountain when fully operational will not possess sufficient capacity to receive existing waste. Thus, allowing expansion of the proposed expansion will only exacerbate current problems associated with storage and/or disposal of radioactive waste generated at the Port Gibson facility.

Additionally, the current proposal for expansion would locate a new plant along the Mississippi River in an area prone to damage from hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. An accident or act of sabotage at this facility, and its growing inventory of nuclear waste, could contaminate the Mississippi River, New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. Such an event would be devastating to everyone living downstream and downwind.

Moreover, Claiborne County's emergency planning infrastructure is woefully under funded and could not adequately deal with any incident at the present nuclear plant—let alone a new plant. Sadly, existing emergency planning and infrastructure in Claiborne County and beyond are simply inadequate to address a potential incident.

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E-RTDS = ADM-03
Call James Wilson (JHW)

Additionally, this proposal raises significant environmental justice issues. Claiborne County is 82 percent African American. The placement of this facility within Claiborne County would, therefore, have a disproportionate effect on African American communities.

February 10, 2004

The GRN would assert that issuance of the proposed permit is inappropriate. Accordingly, we request that the proposed application be denied.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Sarthou
Executive Director