

From: "Becky Gillette" <bgillette@bellsouth.net>  
To: <GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov>  
Date: Tue, Feb 10, 2004 11:28 AM  
Subject: ESP for Grand Gulf opposed by Sierra Club

February 8, 2004  
Rose Johnson and Becky Gillette, co-chairs  
MS Chapter Sierra Club  
34 Davis Bayou Circle  
Ocean Springs MS 39564  
228-872-3457

12/31/03  
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Rules and Directives  
Branch  
USNRC

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

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing on behalf of the 1,400 members of Sierra Club in Mississippi to express objections to the proposed expansion of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant located near Port Gibson, Miss. We oppose a permit for this plant because of site characteristics that pose an undue risk. This facility is located on 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. It could be devastating to everyone downstream and downwind including seafood industries that produce economic benefits each year totaling many millions of dollars.

One major concern is inadequate emergency planning and infrastructure in Claiborne County and beyond. Due to the Mississippi Legislature's decision to take away \$200 million in tax revenues generated from Grand Gulf and give them to other counties in the state, Claiborne County's emergency planning infrastructure is woefully underfunded to deal with the present nuclear plant-let alone a new plant. There is not adequate money available to fund the Sheriff's Department, Civil Defense or the Fire Department. There is only one fire station in the rural county, and the hospital in Port Gibson is not open 24 hours per day. The radiological emergency plan relies heavily on teachers to shelter and evacuate school children without obtaining adequately informed consent or any statutory authority.

Entergy wants to dump yet another dangerous facility on the mostly African American residents who live in Claiborne County, which is 82 percent African American. This is a clear case of environmental racism that ignores significant impediments to emergency planning to safeguard area residents in case of an accident or act of terrorism at the facility.

We believe it is no accident that low-income African Americans in Mississippi are being placed at the greatest risk of harm so a large corporation can make big profits. Entergy would not be trying to build the first new nuclear plant in decades in the U.S. in predominantly white

E-REDS=ADM-03  
Add = James Wilson (SHU1)

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Madison or Ridgeland, Miss. Just like you don't have hog factories, creosote waste sites and chemical plants located next to these affluent, white communities. This is another example of environmental racism in a state where African Americans are already bearing the brunt of the pollution burden. African American women in Mississippi have the worst health of any population group in the U.S. Adding additional sources of dangerous pollution is simply unacceptable.

It is a blatant case of environmental racism to expect this community to accept the risk from building another nuclear power plant considering concerns about health impacts from the present plant and the threat of terrorist attacks. This would simply make the terrorist target bigger.

Instead of granting this permit, the government should focus on major, well-funded efforts to encourage energy conservation and development of alternative, sustainable energy such as solar and wind. It is madness to expect future generations for thousands of years to live with the extremely long-lived and hazardous waste that results from nuclear power production. Once fossil fuels run out in a hundred years or so, there could be wide ranging economic disruption that would make it extremely difficult to continue to safeguard nuclear waste. It is a sin against future generations to leave this legacy of poison as the most lasting hallmark of our generation.

This early site permit should be denied.

Sincerely,

Rose Johnson and Becky Gillette, co-chairs, Mississippi Chapter Sierra Club