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TO: JEFF MILLER VIA FACSIMILE 601-437-4653
FR: ALEXANDER C. MARTIN, PORT GIBSON, MS 39150 601-894-9080
RE: NRC'S ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR AN ESP AT GRAND GULF SITE
DT: JULY 14, 2005

I found the June 28, 2005 public meeting to be very well organized but to some extent scripted and orchestrated. The facilitators were courteous, professional and knowledgeable. This process is obviously complicated and difficult for private citizens to follow and understand. I suggest that technocrats be reminded that everyone does not have nuclear energy backgrounds and training, therefore, when speaking, they should use plain and simple language as well as analogies and examples and the least amount of technical talk as possible.

When I moved to Claiborne County my greatest fear and concern was the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant. Thoughts of Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and the Love Canal worried me but I put my trust in God and moved here anyway. Living in Claiborne County has been a good experience for my wife and children and I have no regrets about my decision to live here. I cherish numerous sights along the Bayou Pierre, the Mississippi River and the Natchez Trace. The land is beautiful and the wildlife abundant. The antebellum history, civil war history and the civil rights history is fascinating. I want to see these three histories merge into a common history for the people of this county.

I want this county to prosper and flourish but our population growth, employment rate, per capita income and business growth has stagnated. Few businesses or industries have located in this community. From an economic perspective our county has floundered. Grand Gulf Nuclear Station has been one of the few constants in this community.

The possibility of luring a second unit at GGNS is palatable to our governing authorities and now presented as Claiborne County's best chance (and possibly last chance) for economic renewal and revival. They're betting everything on Unit II. They expect the construction period to jump start our economy. They have high expectations that a higher percentage of local residents will land permanent jobs when Unit II opens than we presently have under Unit I. They hope that the Mississippi Legislature which took tax dollars from this county in the past will either be precluded by law from doing so; or will alternatively be merciful enough to allow this county to retain those benefits because it's the right thing to do.

We desperately need new employers and an expanded tax base to prevent further demise and deterioration in our community, as is occurring in surrounding communities. For example, our neighbor, Jefferson County (whose governing board has also endorsed GG Unit II) had to resort to bringing not one, but two prisons (undesirable industries) to that community. Just as Jefferson county has doubled up on prisons, Claiborne County now appears poised to double-up and become the home of not one, but two nuclear power units.

SIS Review Complete

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Call = J. Wilson (JHW1)
C. Geyer (CX93)

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Grand Gulf Nuclear Station is a significant employer, offering by far, the best opportunities and benefits in this county. Entergy, Inc. has distinguished itself as a premier entity in the field of nuclear power as evidenced by its numerous safety and operation awards presented to GGNS. While the technology used in constructing and operating Unit II will be second to none in the world, nothing man-made is flawless or perfect.

Accidents and mistakes can and do happen. I'm mindful of the many successes of NASA during the course of my lifetime from orbiting the earth, to landing on the moon, to constructing and manning a space station. I'm also aware of that agency's shortcomings and failures including Apollo I, and the two space shuttle disasters. No one foresaw the O-ring problem on the Challenger or the tile problem on Columbia, but they happened.

It's my understanding that what happened at Chernobyl could never happen at an American made nuclear plant. I'm sure that the problems at Three Mile Island have been discovered, distinguished and corrected. I have enough faith in God and confidence in man's technological advances to believe that whenever and wherever the next nuclear power plant is constructed in America, that it will be state-of -the-art in every form and respect. I have lived under the plume of steam rising from the GGNS cooling tower without incident for eighteen years and am not afraid to live in this community. However, I prefer not to spend the remainder of my life looking for smoke signals. I prefer not to live in a silicon valley of nuclear power and nuclear waste.

A decade ago, our governing authorities considered the gaming industry as the means to economic revival and renewal in this county. They suggested that a casino might be our goose that lays the golden egg. I silently voted "no" to the gaming industry because I considered gaming an "undesirable industry. Today, I say no to nuclear industry because everything that glitters is not gold.

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