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TESTIMONY TO NRC SCOPING MEETING
WAYNESBORO, GA
10-19-06

I am Dr. Susan Wood. I am Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Citizens of Nuclear Technology Awareness, or CNTA. Previously I was Director of the Savannah River Technology Center, which is now the Savannah River National Laboratory.

CNTA is the nation's largest grassroots pro-nuclear education and advocacy group with over 2,000 members and sponsors. Our goal is to provide factual and objective information on beneficial nuclear technologies to students, the public, and elected officials.

The citizens of this geographical area are very familiar with, and comfortable with a large variety of nuclear enterprises. Some examples follow.

The large Savannah River Site (SRS) has been a very good neighbor since 1951, and The Center for Disease Control (CDC) just recently issued a large report they had been working on for about 13 years showing that people in and around the site since its beginning had not received harmful doses of radiation during that time.

Near Barnwell, SC there is a well-run low-level waste repository and a commercial laundry for slightly contaminated clothing.

The Medical College of Georgia has a large and successful nuclear medicine program.

In Columbia, SC Westinghouse manufactures low-enriched uranium fuel for commercial power reactors.

And, here in Burke County the Southern Nuclear Operating Company and Georgia Power operate two nuclear reactors, and they have done it safely and efficiently, providing much needed electricity for Georgians.

The people of this area know that Georgia Power has been a good and responsible neighbor, and a valued friend of Burke County. They employ several hundred people and pay good salaries. They make a major contribution to the tax base and have made generous contributions to worthy community causes.

Surveys made here and throughout the country show that 84 to 85% of people who live near existing nuclear plants fully support the building of additional nuclear plants near

them or elsewhere. That is about as close to unanimous as you can get in the U.S. on any subject. Those people know that today's reactors are not only safe, but do not pollute the ground, streams or the atmosphere. For example, they don't contribute to acid rain, smog, heavy metal contamination, ozone depletion, or global warming.

Some have expressed concern that two more reactors at Plant Vogtle would consume too much water from the Savannah River. That criticism is without merit. Plant Vogtle currently consumes only 0.6% of the river flow under normal conditions. The water taken from the Savannah River to cool the reactors is itself cooled in the cooling towers, then returned to the river. The only water actually removed is the small amount of water vapor that goes into the atmosphere. Also, the water returned to the river is only one degree Celsius higher than when it was withdrawn, and that increases the river water temperature by only 0.008 degrees Celsius – not a significant effect.

The people in this area are very knowledgeable, and because they are, they are supportive of Georgia Power's plans to add two more reactors at Vogtle. Frankly, we can't conceive of a more favorable environment. The citizens here know from experience that Georgia Power can be trusted to have safe and well-managed plants..