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**To:** <Vogtle\_EIS@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 17, 2006 2:51 PM  
**Subject:** Vogtle Environmental Impact Statement

10/5/06

71FR 58882

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Office of Administration  
Mailstop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Regarding the Vogtle permit application and the Early Site Permit (ESP) process which allows a company to potentially 'bank' a site for up to 40 years (the 20 year ESP could get a 20 year extension), the NRC should have to look not only at Georgia 'today,' but the Georgia we are likely to live in 40 years from now. A few relevant issues that concern me are

Nuclear Waste:

- High-level radioactive waste created (used nuclear fuel) has no place to be stored or disposed, nor is it likely that a 'solution' will be found in our lifetimes; building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse.
- Existing and future projected waste will remain onsite at Plant Vogtle for generations and generations, threatening indefinitely the health of nearby communities and the environment. Yet the NRC in previous cases has refused to even address or consider this very important issue. Why not?

Security:

- Nuclear plants are vulnerable to terrorist attack and sabotage; building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse by providing more targets.
- Plant Vogtle is also very close to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, which stores a large portion of the nation's weapons grade plutonium and other dangerous materials. If an accident or successful terrorist attack occurred, the full impacts to human health and the environment in this region would be immense. Why make it worse?

Human Health:

- A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at

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just one of Vogtle's reactors it could cause 39,000 peak\* early injuries, 4000 peak cancer deaths, and 200 peak early fatalities with costs over \$60 billion; building more reactors will only worsen these terrible impacts and put more people's lives and health at risk. (\*Peak means highest calculated value from the study – it does not necessarily mean worst case.) It is clear that nuclear generation facilities will without fail have accidental releases and handling loss of radioactive materials; why would we want to risk environmental degradation and possible human genetic mutation when there are more benign energy sources available?

#### Water Use & Supply:

-Vogtle's 2 existing reactors require huge amounts of water with only 1/3 of what was withdrawn being returned to the Savannah River [~64 million gallons per day (mgd) withdrawal with consumption of ~43 mgd]. That's more water than many towns and cities in Georgia use!  
-Doubling the number of reactors on site will only make this worse. This excess use of water threatens municipalities, industries, agriculture, recreation, and aquatic species. If there is an extended drought—even a drought 20 or 40 years from now, severe consequences could occur within the Savannah River basin.

#### Water Quality:

-The water discharged from nuclear Plant Vogtle is already hotter than what is withdrawn; more reactors will only make this situation worse. Temperature changes negatively affect the fish, plant, and animal life that depend on the river.  
-The water intake systems at nuclear power plants can kill fish and fish larvae, among other organisms; having more reactors on site will only make this worse.  
This is enough information to make the determination that we must produce electricity needed through less dangerous energy supplies such as energy efficiency, solar, wind, and biopower.

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**Creation Date** Tue, Oct 17, 2006 2:50 PM  
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