

From: "Joe Whetstone" <pj3whetstone@hargray.com>
To: <Vogtle_EIS@nrc.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 17, 2006 3:38 PM
Subject: Comment on permit application for Plant Vogtle

Attached are my comments concerning a permit application to build up to two additional nuclear reactors at the existing Vogtle nuclear power plant in Burke County near Waynesboro, GA.

Joe Whetstone
10 Hamilton Dr
Bluffton, SC 29909-4437
(843)705-9128

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Health reasons we can not safely locate additional nuclear facilities at Plant Vogtle along the Savannah River.

Faced with salt water intrusion of the Floridan Aquifer both Beaufort and Jasper counties in S.C. and the Savannah area will become more dependent on the Savannah River for drinking water. Plant Vogtle already contributes tritium to the Savannah River (1),

The current flow of the Savannah River dilutes the radioactive tritium added to the river by Plant Vogtle, the Barnwell nuclear waste dump, and the Savannah River Site (SRS) enough to meet the EPA's maximum contaminant level for tritium. Given the likelihood Atlanta will draw water from the Savannah in the future (2) and the strong possibility of recurring draughts, a reduced river flow will surely increase the tritium level.

Although currently, the EPA maximum contamination level for tritium is 20,000 pCi/L, in March of 2006 the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) established a Public Health Goal (PHG) of 400 pCi/L for tritium in drinking water. This goal was set using the EPA document "Cancer Risk Coefficients for Environmental Exposure to Radionuclides: Federal Guidance Report 13". (3) The Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority reported the average level of tritium for 2005 was 547 pCi/L.(4)

(1) <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/ERsum/er06/05erpdfs/chap5.pdf>

The total tritium transport in the Savannah River for 2005 was 4,480 Ci, compared with the previous year's 3,630 Ci. Both Plant Vogtle and SRS contributed to these release values. Accounting for Plant Vogtle's contribution, SRS's calculated releases of tritium to the river in 2005 totaled approximately 2,620 Ci.

Chapter 5

Effluent Surveillance

Pete Fledderman, Donald Padgett, and Monte Steedley

Environmental Services Section

Timothy Jannik

Savannah River National Laboratory

(2) <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/story/5909735p-5223735c.html>

(3) <http://www.oehha.ca.gov/water/phg/pdf/PHGtritium030306.pdf>

(4) http://www.bjwsa.org/pdf_files/2005waterreport.pdf

Joe Whetstone

10 Hamilton Dr.

Bluffton, SC 29909-4437

(843)705-9128

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Created By: pj3whetstone@hargray.com

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