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

10/5/06
71 FR 58882
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To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept these comments on the Early Site Permit application submitted by Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. to build new reactors at Plant Vogtle in Burke County, Georgia.

The Savannah River basin is already suffering and building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse. Since the Early Site Permit (ESP) process allows a company to potentially "bank" a site for up to 40 years, I would like to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission consider not only Georgia as it is "today," but the Georgia we are likely to live in 40 years from now.

Plant Vogtle's two existing reactors require huge amounts of water with only 1/3 of what is withdrawn being returned to the Savannah River [about 64 million gallons per day (mgd) withdrawal with consumption of about 43 mgd]. That's more water than many towns and cities in Georgia use! Doubling the number of reactors on the 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.

The water discharged from nuclear Plant Vogtle is hotter than what is withdrawn. These temperature changes negatively affect the fish, plant, and animal life that depend on the river while the water intake systems at nuclear power plants can kill fish and fish larvae, among other organisms. All of this contributes to declining diversity in the Savannah River ecosystem.

Nuclear power has lasting consequences for surrounding communities. High-level radioactive waste has no place to be stored or disposed, nor is it likely that a 'solution' will be found in our lifetimes. Existing and future projected waste will remain onsite at Plant Vogtle for generations, threatening indefinitely the health of nearby communities and the environment.

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Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Cdd = M. [unclear] (mdu)
D. Guerrero (2993)

As well, nuclear power plants are vulnerable to terrorist attack and sabotage; more nuclear reactors means more targets. Plant Vogtle is 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. The NRC must acknowledge this future threat in its consideration of the ESP.

Finally, a 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at just one of Plant 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. More reactors put more people's lives and health at risk.

I urge the NRC to refuse the early site permit for Plant Vogtle for all of Georgia's citizens – present and future. In the face of alternative energy sources, more nuclear reactors in Georgia is just not worth the risk to our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Bodonyi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rebecca Bodonyi