

From: Lynne Moody <lynnemoody@earthlink.net>
To: <Vogtle_EIS@nrc.gov>
Date: Mon, Nov 27, 2006 12:53 PM
Subject: new nuclear reactors near the Savannah River site

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
NRC

Dear Chief Vogtle,

I am writing to comment on the proposal to construct two new nuclear reactors near the Savannah River site. As a public health physician, I want to express my opposition to this proposal. If I understand correctly, the "early site permit" being sought can actually be used up to 20 years from the time of granting, with an additional 20 year extension if requested. Predicting conditions as far as forty years in the future seems unrealistic at best, but this arrangement constitutes an effective carte blanche, should the builders and promoters so desire. Pertaining to this specific site, our disregard for increasingly scarce water resources is ominous. Water use by the SRS reactors currently in operation is 64 million gallons per day, with 43 million returned to the Savannah River (a net "loss" of 19 million gallons a day)--this in an area of the country that has been in drought conditions for 5 years.

More generally, nuclear power simply has too many dangerous and unresolved issues surrounding it to warrant resurrecting it: the waste disposal problem has never been resolved, and in our world, a terrorist attack is a real and serious possibility. The proximity of the proposed reactors to on-site storage of plutonium at Savannah River would make it one of many desirable terrorist targets. And reactor technology is inevitably tied to nuclear weapons proliferation. The United States should be setting an example for the world by moving us toward a nuclear-free future, not by amplifying the costs and risks.

And finally, it is, as you surely know, a myth that nuclear power plants incur no fossil fuel cost: their construction is extraordinarily expensive and dependent entirely on fossil fuels. I urge you to oppose the granting of a permit for additional nuclear power plants near the Savannah River Site.

Sincerely,
P.L. Moody, M.D., M.P.H.
Atlanta, GA

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