



C. S. Hinnant
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Progress Energy, Inc.

50-400

December 12, 2006

Honorable Barry Jacobs, Vice-Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners
PO Box 8181
200 S. Cameron St
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Dear Commissioner Jacobs:

Progress Energy is committed to open communication with elected officials and other stakeholders about Harris Plant operations. Thus, we were disappointed with the tone of your letter and the board's decision to decline our offer to visit the plant. We have had several key leaders from surrounding communities visit the plant in the past and they found the visit beneficial and informative, and we are pleased that members of the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Wake County Board of Commissioners are planning visits in the near future.

Please know that our offer stands, and we hope you will reconsider your decision. We believe a visit to the site would demonstrate first-hand the facts about the comprehensive measures that we have in place to ensure the public health and safety of our employees and nearby communities. It would also be a good opportunity for the Orange County commissioners to share questions and concerns with highly trained staff members who can answer them.

The Harris Plant has one of the best safety records in the country and has operated safely since it came online two decades ago. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is onsite, ensuring that the plant meets its standards and operates safely every day.

As you and I discussed during the fuel pool litigation, the NRC established a standard 10-mile emergency planning zone (EPZ) for all nuclear facilities across the country based on very conservative public dose considerations. Data exists that would support reducing the evacuation zone to 5 miles, but the federal agency has determined that the current EPZ will remain at 10 miles. Therefore, we do not support burdening county and state emergency officials, who are responsible for evacuation plans, by arbitrarily supporting an expansion of the zone to 50 miles when the safety risk is not present.

We are always open to sharing information with elected officials and community members about the operations and safety features of the Harris Plant and other plants operated by Progress Energy. We have also in the past met directly with NC WARN to discuss issues, including fire protection, in an attempt to alleviate their concerns. We routinely make the plant open to the

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media, encourage key leaders to participate in educational site visits and make additional information available via the Internet and other formats to plant neighbors interested in Harris Plant operations. A recent media day at the plant was attended by several local news outlets.

Again, please call Marty Clayton, at 919-878-5300 or e-mail to marty.clayton@pgnmail.com if you choose to reconsider a site visit and discussion with our plant operators and senior management.

Sincerely,



C. S. Hinnant

- c: Orange County Board of County Commissioners
- Kevin Foy, Mayor of Chapel Hill
- Mark Chilton, Mayor of Carrboro
- Robert Gruber, Executive Director of Public Staff, NC Utilities Commission
- Bryan E. Beatty, Secretary, NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety
- Doug Pickett, Acting Branch Chief, Plant Licensing Branch 11-2
- Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation