

From: "Blanton, Stan" <SBLANTON@balch.com>
To: "Brooke Poole" <BDP@nrc.gov>
Date: 12/11/2006 4:06:11 PM
Subject: Press Release

-----Original Message-----

From: Valerie True [mailto:valerie@cleanenergy.org
<mailto:valerie@cleanenergy.org>]

Sent: Monday, December 11, 2006 12:02 PM

To: Valerie True

Subject: Release: Groups Intervene in Vogtle Nuclear Expansion

Media Release from Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

December 11, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Mary Maclean Asbill, Turner Environmental Law Clinic, 404.727.3432 Sara Barczak, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, 912.201.0354 Bobbie Paul, Atlanta WAND, 678.938.2598 Louis Zeller, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, 336.982.2691

Groups Petition to Intervene in Application to Expand Nuclear Power in Georgia:

Proposal places undue risk to public and environment

Atlanta, GA Today organizations in Georgia filed a request to intervene in proceedings before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to protect Georgia from further exploitation by the nuclear power industry. The organizations, including Atlanta WAND (Women's Action for New Directions), Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Center for a Sustainable Coast, Savannah Riverkeeper and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, filed a petition for intervention on behalf of their members with the NRC to stop the proposed expansion of nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle in Burke County along the Savannah River. Emory University School of Law's Turner Environmental Law Clinic, along with Diane Curran of Washington, D.C., are representing the organizations.

³Investing in new nuclear reactors here in Georgia is a big mistake. This will only make our communities more vulnerable,² said Sara Barczak, safe energy director with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy in their Savannah office. ³What Georgia truly needs and deserves is a future built upon safe, affordable energy such as energy efficiency, wind, solar and bioenergy.²

The petition called upon the NRC to reject the proposed nuclear expansion due to the effects it would have on low income communities located near the plant, various aquatic species, water supply and quality, nuclear waste management, security and public health and safety.

If this permit were approved, Southern Company and its utility partners could use the permit at any time for up to 20 years in any future applications with the NRC. Additionally, if the permit were issued, concerns such as water, land, public health and safety cannot be brought up again.

³Burke and Jefferson County residents, many of them poor, have suffered the double burden of living near both the Savannah River Site and Plant Vogtle.

We needed to speak out for their safety, the quality of the air they breathe, the water they drink and the fish they eat. Southern Nuclear and its partners who stand to gain enormous corporate profits certainly aren't going to,² said Bobbie Paul, executive director of Atlanta WAND.

Several contentions related to environmental impacts were raised. The petition stated that the application did not evaluate the current conditions of the Savannah River or the overall cumulative impact the proposed expansion at Plant Vogtle would have on the river basin or fishery resources. For instance, the organizations¹ petition highlighted that the Savannah River population of the robust redhorse fish species is only one of three small sub-populations known to exist.

The petition also addressed numerous security, public health and safety concerns. The petition stated that the application failed to address the impacts of intentional attacks on the existing and proposed nuclear reactors or to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives for avoiding or mitigating those impacts. In addition, the petition stated that the application failed to address the fact that cancer rates in the minority and low-income community surrounding Plant Vogtle are already higher than the general population, and therefore that they are more vulnerable to the adverse impacts of radiological and chemical releases from the proposed new reactors.

³Charles Utley staffs our Augusta office. He, his family and our members in the area are already suffering from the adverse health impacts from Vogtle and the Savannah River Site,² said Lou Zeller, campaigner for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. He added, ³We are gravely concerned about

cancer, birth defects, immune deficiency and premature deaths.² The League has called for comprehensive health studies before any new nuclear plants are permitted.

Though every major utility in the Southeast is proposing to build a new nuclear reactor within the next five to ten years, independently or through a consortium, the organizations believe future energy demand in Georgia and across the region should be met by aggressive energy efficiency and conservation measures and renewable energy. These measures pose less risk to communities while playing an important role in reducing global warming pollution.

The Early Site Permit is the first step by Georgia utilities to get federal approval for new nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle. Despite price overruns, increased costs, threat of terrorism and nuclear waste problems, Southern Company's nuclear division (Southern Nuclear Operating Company) filed for an Early Site Permit with the NRC in August on behalf of the Vogtle co-owners, Georgia Power (a subsidiary of the Southern Company), Oglethorpe Power, the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) and Dalton Utilities.

The petition will be available in Southern Alliance for Clean Energy's online Media Room at www.cleanenergy.org <outbind://2/www.cleanenergy.org> <<http://www.cleanenergy.org> <<http://www.cleanenergy.org>> > after 3:00 p.m. EST.

For more information on the intervening organizations, visit:

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For more information on the NRC's Vogtle application process, visit <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/vogtle> <<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/vogtle>> .

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Created By: SBLANTON@balch.com

Recipients
"Brooke Poole" <BDP@nrc.gov>

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