



Nuclear Information and Resource Service

National Office: 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 340, Takoma Park, MD 20912 USA
tel: 301-270-NIRS (301-270-6477); fax: 301-270-4291; e-mail nirsnet@nirs.org
www.nirs.org - NIRS is affiliated with WISE - www.antenna.nl/wise

Southeast Office: P.O. Box 7586 Asheville, North Carolina 28802 USA
tel: 828-675-1792; email: nirs@main.nc.us

November 27, 2007

Secretary
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville Maryland
Washington DC 20555

9/14/07
BFR 52586
12

Secretary:

It is with cause that I write on behalf of our members nationwide, particularly in Georgia and South Carolina to request an extension on the comment period on NUREG-1872, **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Vogtle Electric Generating Plant Site**. The comment period is due to expire tomorrow, November 28, 2007. The cause for this request is the fact that for the last 8 days (at the least) the document has not been available to those seeking it on the NRC web site, and thanks to the Thanksgiving Holiday, I was unsuccessful in reaching NRC staff to get this matter fixed until yesterday.

Happily, I can report that as of this morning, action has been taken, and the document IS accessible. Last night at 8 pm however, it was not...nor was it for the intervening days since November 21. Prior to that it is unclear, as I reported that the document would not open on October 2nd, 2 days before the public meeting held by NRC staff in Waynesboro, GA. Due to travel and other work demands I cannot confirm whether the document was in fact accessible or not, but since the same malfunction occurred November 21 as had on Oct 2, it is likely that the document was, in fact NOT available via the NRC website during this entire period.

I will note that NRC staff was entirely accommodating in terms of offering to Fed-Ex a hard copy or CD to me when they returned from Holiday and became aware of the situation. Unfortunately this does not address the loss of opportunity to any other individual who may have become aware of Southern Company's plans to expand the Vogtle site, either through the media, their professional activity, their proximity to the site, or one of the many non-governmental organizations concerned with this proposal.

Since NRC has substituted on-line access for other forms of public access - particularly the Public Document room and other points of access, the on-line access must be viewed as *fundamental* to NRC credibility in stating that "public comment" has been obtained. It is a very high bar to expect a member of the public to determine how to contact the appropriate NRC staff to obtain a copy in another manner when the web-site is ~~non-functional~~. I also want to note that while staff was attempting to be helpful to me, a whole day was lost yesterday while they simply confirmed that I did, in fact, have a real problem. The changes to the site today are thoughtful, responsive - but too late.

Please extend this comment period. I believe a full 60 days extension is justified; any less than 30 days would be inappropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Olson
Southeast Regional Coordinator
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Cc: Chip Cameron, Mark Notich, Sara Barczack, Lawrence Sanders

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