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Savannah, GA 31405
December 6, 2007

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

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9/14/07
72FR52586

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Re: Comments on the draft EIS for the Vogtle Early Site Permit-Docket # 52-11

Sir:

As you may know, in the time since the last comment period on this permit most of Georgia, especially the northern half, has been hit hard by a historic drought. Northern Georgia is under a total watering ban and many cities could run dry by next spring. It has been reported that Atlanta and other North Georgia cities may try to tap the Savannah River and other sources in South Georgia to meet their needs. The draft EIS makes no mention of the proposed reactors' projected water use, especially in light of this drought. It is irresponsible for Southern Nuclear Operating Company to want to build more nuclear reactors that consume copious amounts of water at this time. At the very least the company must address the new reactors' water use and put it in context of this and any future drought. Absent this, their request for an Early Site Permit deserves nothing less than a categorical denial.

Under normal circumstances the new reactors would put Savannah and other downstream communities at risk from increased radioactive emissions in the Savannah River. Now that Atlanta and other North Georgia communities want to draw water from the river they too will be at risk. This is another way the company is being irresponsible because now their plan threatens the entire state. I am sure that North Georgians do not want radioactive contamination in their drinking water and especially do not want new reactors making the problem even worse.

I have been and still am opposed to Southern Nuclear Operating Company receiving an Early Site Permit. However, even if I were in favor of the company receiving this permit I have no confidence that they will be able to bring the project in under budget. This will cause Georgia Power to raise its rates, again. Georgia Power had its largest rate increase when Vogtle became operational. With that track record, how can anyone expect anything different? Here is another way the company is being irresponsible, this time with ratepayers' and their shareholders' money.

In this time of historic drought and with the world community having reached consensus that we must start tackling the problems of climate change now, Southern Company is doing its ratepayers, shareholders and the world a disservice by seeking this ESP.

SONSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Add = M. Notich (mdn)
C. Guerrero (cxg3)

Instead of using expensive, water-guzzling nuclear reactors that do not lessen the problems of, and are a false solution for, global warming the company should be investing in energy efficiency and power sources such as wind farms, solar panel stations, geothermal energy and certain forms of biomass to meet our energy needs. It goes without saying that this will also lower our risk for a possible terrorist attack, compared to having new nuclear reactors. Efficiency investments alone would be the most cost effective and cut out the need for more nuclear reactors.

I strongly urge the Commission to, at the very least, force Southern Nuclear to go back to the drawing board and have it account for the proposed reactors' increased use of Savannah River water and put it in context with the ongoing drought. This should be thoroughly explained in a new draft EIS. When it is released the Commission should hold hearings on it in Savannah, Atlanta and Georgia's other major cities in addition to Waynesboro. This is because this plan has serious ramifications for the entire state. If the company fails to do this or simply states there is a negligible impact then the ESP should be denied on the spot, end of story. Even if they can satisfactorily explain the increased draw on the Savannah River in light of the drought I urge the Commission to deny the ESP for the other reasons stated above.

Thank you for extending the deadline for comments on this draft EIS to December 28. However, the Commission should have held hearings on it in Savannah and other downstream communities, not just in Waynesboro. This still sends the clear signal that it just does not care for how we feel about this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Lanier

Jody Lanier