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(MAH2)

My name is Tom Moss, and I live in Huntsville, about 37 miles from the Bellefonte site. I am a long-time caver, and past director of the Alabama Cave Survey. I am opposed to construction of Bellefonte reactors 3 and 4 on several grounds, but would like to speak briefly about safety and about water conservation.

The proposed construction site is in a limestone area where the massive beds of the Bangor, Monteagle and Tuscumbia limestones contain many caves. There are over 4200 known caves in Alabama, and Jackson County contains 1854 caves, which is more cave entrances than any other county *(IN ALABAMA) OR INDEED ANY COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES!*

Most of the caves in this area are not charted. Many of them are voids without entrances that exist below the water table. When the water table drops, these voids become filled with air. The ceiling is no longer supported by water. The ceiling collapses, and this is one way that sinkholes form. As everyone who lives around here knows, sinkholes have been known to open up and swallow houses and cars. God help us if one undermines the foundations of a nuclear reactor!

AND SITE SUSTAINABILITY

That was a safety concern. Here's another concern about water consumption. DOWNSTREAM

TVA proposes building a thirsty monster that will consume as much water from the Tennessee river as the people who live along it take from the river now. Yes, the amount of water taken from the river will double, and I'm not talking about the hot water that is returned to the river to wreck the ecology. I'm talking about the river water that is lost, ~~consumed by the reactor.~~

Maybe TVA doesn't know it, but we're in exceptional drought conditions here in the Tennessee Valley. We've been in a drought for years. Communities are considering new water treatment plants that will take additional water from the Tennessee River. Millions of thirsty residents of Atlanta have their eyes on that water, too.

Building a nuclear power plant that will consume millions of gallons of water every day is just not sustainable. There are safer, more healthy ways of generating power.

Thank you for considering these important concerns.