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## No Nuclear Power

The nuclear subject has arisen once more. I still think it is not a good idea to put anything using nuclear power in our valley or any valley for that matter. Our children are our future and we are considering sending them to school less than five miles from a nuclear plant.

Using a Westinghouse AP1000 is an improvement from the old method, but it is still using nuclear atoms and uranium 235, which has a half-life of 700,000,000 years and plutonium 239, which has a half-life of 24,000 years (a half-life is how long it takes for half of the atom to become non-radioactive). Nuclear waste is more powerful and cannot be stored here because of the ground water. Our water intake pipe is downstream from Bellefonte at the B.B. Comer Bridge. Northeast Alabama is steeped in history. Jackson County is blessed with abundant natural beauty and rich resources, let us not contaminate what we have.

Nuclear plants are so astronomically expensive to build, 5.9 billion + for one plant. Brown's Ferry went on line and has been down four times or more and more monies are being put into that facility. For our sake, let's hope, there is no melt down at that plant because we would be affected by the fall out.

"More utilities are building coal gasification plants. This is changing dirty coal into clean hydrogen. The *Syngas* is burned and drives a gas turbine, which produces electricity. The exhaust heat passes to a heat recovery steam generator where it's used to boil water, creating steam for a steam turbine generator that also produces electricity. This makes gasification plants more efficient. This would cut down or cut out the CO2 and sulfur."

New inventions for electric power are ongoing. Listed below are some:

1. Wind Power
2. Solar Power
3. Hydro-power
4. Geothermal Energy
5. Biomass-derived fuels
6. Municipal Solid Waste
7. Petroleum Liquids
8. Fuel Cells
9. Pulverized Coal
10. Intregated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC)

I would like to say there are choices other than nuclear power. Nuclear power only produces about 20% of the electricity in the U.S. and there could be problems with the nuclear waste shipped to a disposal destination. Germany will be shutting down all of their nuclear facilities by 2020 because they have no place to put the nuclear waste. Where are our dumping grounds???? Let's keep Jackson County and surrounding area nuclear free.

Liz Bennett

References:

1. Combined License (COL)  
Application for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant Units 3 & 4  
Environmental Report Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4
2. *Huntsville Times*.
3. Electricity - Yes! Tritium – No!
4. BELLEFONTE “To be or not to be”.