

Doris Mendiola

From: Vicki Wooten [VWooten@commerce.state.sc.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 2:53 PM
To: LeeCOLAEIS Resource
Attachments: JET_Lee_Nuclear_Michael_Lesar_5_08.pdf

Mr. Lesar,

Attached is a copy of our letter of support for the Williams States Lee III Nuclear Station License Application. The original letter has been mailed to you at the address below. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Michael Lesar
Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D59, U.S.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Thanks,

Vicki

Vicki S. Wooten
Executive Assistant
Office of the Secretary
South Carolina Department of Commerce
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, SC 29201
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Mark Sanford
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
Secretary

May 15, 2008

Mr. Michael Lesar
Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D59, U.S.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Reference: Williams States Lee III Nuclear Station License Application
(Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 55 / Thursday, March 20, 2008 / Notices P. 15009)

Dear Mr. Lesar,

The South Carolina Department of Commerce encourages the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to approve the license application for the Lee Nuclear Station in South Carolina. The plant will serve to benefit the state's economy while providing a clean and necessary source of energy to businesses and residents in South Carolina.

The two proposed nuclear generators at the Lee Nuclear Station would supply energy to about 2 million homes, with a capacity of 2,234 megawatts. Duke Energy now serves 2.3 million customers in both North and South Carolina. The company adds about 50,000 new customers each year to its services in both states, and expects to increase output by 10,700 megawatts by 2027 in order to meet demand.

South Carolina has witnessed phenomenal growth in the past few years. In 2007, our state was the 10th fastest growing state in the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Estimates show this trend continuing in the decades ahead and more sources of power will be needed to accommodate this demand.

South Carolina has worked to foster a business-friendly climate, which has attracted new industry and investment, and encouraged growth among existing businesses. Access to affordable, reliable energy is a critical factor in attracting future business investment and maintaining our state's healthy economy. Without new capacity to produce more energy, South Carolina's economic growth potential could be jeopardized as business and industry choose to halt expansion plans or invest elsewhere.

Mr. Michael Lesar
May 15, 2008
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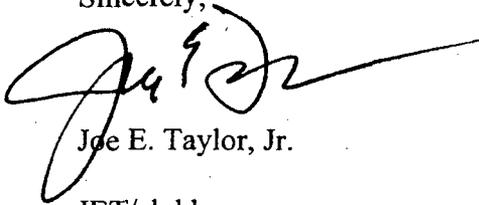
Beyond supporting current economic activity and future development, the Lee Nuclear Station will itself create thousands of new jobs during construction and could generate more than 1,000 high-paying jobs once the facility is operational.

We recognize that environmental concerns play a role in the resources the state, and the nation, develop to meet energy needs. Therefore, it is important to recognize that nuclear power facilities have enabled increased energy capacity without increasing the use of fuels that emit greenhouse gases. Additionally, Duke Energy has a strong history of maintaining its commitment to environmental protection and has a 30-year record of safely operating nuclear stations in South Carolina

Duke Energy has proven to be a good neighbor in the communities in which the company operates plants, with a commitment to safety and environmental concerns. We are confident that Duke Energy will continue to live up to its past standards to meet or exceed all environmental and safety regulations while generating energy to meet its customers' growing needs.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe E. Taylor, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe E. Taylor, Jr.

JET/cb.kb