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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Hearing Docket

From: Joseph Graveline [oldgraywolf@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 20, 2008 10:29 PM
To: Marcia Carpentier; Hearing Docket
Subject: Vernon Vt nuclear relisencing hearing

Hello, My name is Joe Graveline. I live in Northfield Massachusetts about six or seven miles South as the crow flies from the Vernon nuclear plant.

As a young man during the late sixties I helped build the Vernon plant.
I was up close and personal with some of the events that took place during the building of that project, so more than some people I have knowledge that makes me very uncomfortable with the continued use of that very tired old facility.

I have been involved with aviation for over thirty years, and I understand the dynamics of metal fatigue,the relationships of moisture steel and concrete, and the effect that moisture,repeated hot and cold cycles and time have on the structural integrity of many of the important components this plant relies on day in and day out.

The mechanical and structural problems that have plagued this facility, coupled with the human error we have seen over a number of years, are just plain scary.

This plant in particular has had more than it's share of mishaps and problems lately, and I no longer have any faith in this plants ability to continue to operate safely.

I question the NRC ability to put the public safety first before the wishes of big business to make big profits over the wellbeing of the people Northern Massachusetts, Southern Vermont and New Hampshire.

I know the price that would be payed for a major event at the Vernon Nuclear plant here in Northfield and the surrounding area would be beyond the realm of understanding.

I own bottom land here in Northfield. It is some of the richest farm land anywhere in the world. More than ever we will be relieving on this very fertile river valley bottom land to provide our local communities with fresh healthy food.

The possibility of an event that might put this whole valley at risk is unacceptable.

My ancestors lived off this land, these hills, and this river for over one hundred generations before the first Europeans showed up. When the people came in circle to make major decisions they used the rule of seven generations to test out the wisdom of their choices. Thinking about the welfare of the next seven generations in the decision making process was a good practice.

I pray that your decision process will take the welfare of our next seven generations into your dialog. If we have a major event we will loose this beautiful river valley for the next one hundred generations.

I understand all too clearly that Entergy is cooking the books with this latest 120% power boost to show potential byers that there are big profits to be made owning this plant. I also understand that they don't want to get saddled with the very costly decommissioning of this forty year old nuclear power plant and all it's spent fuel rods.

We all know that America is for sale to anyone in the world with the cash to pay. Many people here in Northfield feel that Entergy will sell out to some corporation from some foreign country who will not have to worry about accountability for any major problems do to the insulating factor of foreign ownership at a distance,

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and Entergy will get out from under the accountability for the shut down and decommissioning of the Vernon plant should it be sold.

At our town meeting this last May I had the chance to witness this concern first hand from many Northfield citizens who were opposed to the Vernon relicensing beyond 2012. The overwhelming majority of Northfield citizens voted to ask for the decommissioning and termination of the Vernon Nuclear Power Plant on or before 2012 and we asked that our selectmen send out a letter to you making that clear. I understand the majority of towns in the safety range of Vernon also asked the for the same thing. My question is to whom is the NRC going to be watching out for, the citizens of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, or The Entergy Corp?

Please give us back our land and town without this dark cloud hanging over us and vote no to the reissue of an extended license to operate the Vernon Nuclear power plant beyond 2012.

Thank you for taking the time to read and act on my concerns and the concerns of many of our citizens.

sincerely,

Joe Graveline
Northfield, Ma

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