

RAS #AA-17

Hearing Docket

From: J.K. Frazier [moon4kat@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2008 9:53 AM
To: Paul Bollwerk; Hearing Docket
Subject: Docket Nos. 520-14-COL and 52-15-COL

DOCKETED
USNRC

August 13, 2008 9:53 am

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Re: Limited Appearance - Comments on Bellefonte Nuclear Plants 3 & 4

Docket No. 52-014-COL and 52-015-COL

Docket No. 520-14-COL and 52-15-COL

By email to paul.bollwerk@nrc.gov, hearingdocket@nrc.gov

August 12, 2008

Please introduce the following comments into the record, and consider them in connection with the proposal to build and operate two new nuclear reactors at the Bellefonte plant near Scottsboro, AL.

I live within 50 miles of the site, and oppose the building of more nuclear plants in this part of the Southeastern US. Several nuclear facilities already exist (Sequoia, Brown's Ferry, Watts Bar) and the addition of another puts those of us who live here at an elevated and unacceptable risk of radiation poisoning due to the odds of an accident.

Accidents can occur due to human error, mechanical malfunctions, or terrorist attacks. The number of nuclear plants in this area exposes our population to higher risks than elsewhere in the nation. The population in this area of the US is growing at a rapid rate. Siting nuclear plants in densely populated areas makes no sense. There is every likelihood of an eventual accident or attack that will release large amounts of radioactivity, poisoning surrounding residential areas with devastating consequences. The 1982 report Calculation of Reactor Accident Consequences, prepared by the Sandia National Laboratories, estimated that an accident at a single Bellefonte reactor would cause

- 3,600 deaths from acute radiation poisoning within 20 miles
- 7,700 non-fatal cases of acute radiation poisoning within 20 miles
- 4,500 cancer deaths within 50 miles

Because of the population increases since 1982, and because the geographic area considered is limited (radioactivity would spread well beyond 20 miles), these figures should be considered minimal if a meltdown were to occur in the future.

I am informed and believe that new reactors at Bellefonte would also routinely emit a portion of the radioactivity produced in the core into local air and water, where it would enter human bodies through breathing and the food chain. Once in the body, radioactivity kills and injures cells, and is particularly harmful to infants and children.

The added radioactivity would increase risk of cancer. Jackson County, where Bellefonte is located, already suffers from disproportionately high cancer rates. The table below shows that from 1979-1983, the county's cancer death rate jumped from 9.4% below the U.S. to 13.9% above the U.S. in 1999-2005. Its ranking among the 67 Alabama counties also rose, from 44th highest to 10th highest. The increase has a high degree of statistical significance (p<.0001).

Cancer death rate, whites, Jackson County vs. U.S.

Years of Death	Deaths	Jackson County Rate/100,000	U.S. Rate/ 100,000	% +/- U.S.	
1979-1983	373	187.21 (#44 in AL)	206.60	- 9.4	
1999-2005	888	222.56 (#10 in AL)	195.47	+13.9	p<.0001

Notes: Data from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://wonder.cdc.gov>. Rates adjusted to 2000 U.S. standard population. Uses ICD-9 codes 140.0-239.9 for cancer (1979-1983) and ICD-10 codes for cancer (1999-2005). Whites make up over 95% of Jackson County population.

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The current (1999-2005) cancer death rate among Jackson County children and adolescents is more than double that of the U.S. Even though only eight deaths from cancer occurred in these seven years, and the difference falls somewhat short of statistical significance ($p < .19$ when $p < .05$ is significant), the findings should be taken seriously.

Cancer death rate, age 0-24, whites, Jackson County vs. U.S., 1999-2005

Years of Death	Jackson County		U.S. Rate/		% +/- U.S.	p<.19
	Deaths	Rate/100,000	100,000			
1999-2005	8	7.25	3.51		+106.6	

Notes: Data from U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://wonder.cdc.gov> Uses ICD-9 codes ICD-10 codes for cancer (1999-2005). Whites make up over 95% of Jackson County population.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Jackson County's 54,000 residents are already at risk for health problems due to demographic factors. Its poverty rate exceeds the U.S. (15.3% to 12.7% in 2004), and its educational levels fall below that of the nation (67.0% age over 25 graduated from high school, vs. 80.4% nationally in 2000).

Because of the high cancer rates and demographic factors presented here, adding a source of pollution such as nuclear reactors would further threaten the local population.

My husband and I urge you to vote against the Bellefonte application until the foregoing health data have been fully and publicly presented and discussed.

Sincerely,

Jessica K. Frazier
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From: "J.K. Frazier" <moon4kat@yahoo.com>

Subject: Docket Nos. 520-14-COL and 52-15-COL

Date: Wed, 13 Aug 2008 08:53:22 -0500

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