

RAS BB 1



## TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

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DOCKETED  
USNRC

September 4, 2008 (2:36pm)

Office of the Secretary  
Attention: Docketing and Service  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

July 24, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, I request that you push back the deadline for local government intervention on the proposed reactor expansion at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant. Our concerns are:

(1) The application was not complete as it did not have details on the water use at the Harris Plant, lake levels, or withdrawals from the Cape Fear River. NRC staff agrees that these are major environmental impacts that need more details.

(2) The designs for the Westinghouse AP1000 reactors that Progress has adopted for Harris are far from final. The nuclear industry has touted that these reactors are "certified," but, in fact, the process to certify them won't be finished for another three or four years – if then. The systems that aren't certified include containment, cooling, fuel pools, the sump, operations at the control room, cables and a whole raft of other things. The parts that are "certified" may have to be changed if any of the other parts are changed.

As nuclear engineer Dave Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists said in his affidavit in support of the NC WARN motion, no one can review the safety of the plant without knowing what the final design and operations will be.

We are also concerned that GAO's June study confirmed what critics had been saying for years about the NRC's lax enforcement of its own fire safety regulations at Harris and increases the importance of local government vigilance with regard to more reactors at the site.

Mark Chilton  
Mayor, Town of Carrboro