

Phone Interview with Cheryl Curtin, Executive Director for People Attempting to Help (PATH), Inc, of York South Carolina

INTERVIEWER: Michelle Niemeyer, PNNL

DATE/TIME: April 14 and April 22, 2008

TOPIC: Environmental and social issues impacting low-income and/or minority populations related to activities proposed in Lee Nuclear Plant Construction Operating License Application (Duke Power)

PATH (People Attempting to Help), Inc.
204 Raille St
York, SC 29745

Mailing Address:

PATH, Inc.

P.O. Box 52

York, SC 29745

Phone: 803-684-3992

Fax: 803-684-1482

MWF 8:30-Noon

Cheryl Curtin, Executive Director

I spoke with Ms. Curtin on the phone on April 14, 2008. She runs P.A.T.H. and is the only person who manages the York chapter of PATH. She stated that she didn't feel her clients [lower-income population] would be impacted or even feel it because they are too far away. Most of them are very destitute with no cars. She was not able to talk for long at this time, so we made arrangements to try to schedule an appointment with her after she looks at her calendar.

http://pathministriesofyorksc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=31

Phone Interview on April 22, 2008 2pm

Cheri Curtin

Cheri is the Executive Director of P.A.T.H. and has lived in the area for 15 years. Her organization was created in 1982 by the Western York County Christian Ministers Association to keep better records of those receiving services. P.A.T.H. has a food bank that once a month provides a week worth of groceries to an

entire family/household. This is based on income. Every 3 months they provide \$100 to clients to pay for prescriptions, electricity, gas, water or to buy kerosene (there are a lot of people in the area that use kerosene as a form of heat). They can provide emergency hotel if needed. There is a thrift store on N. Congress (which is the Main St.) that provides cheap goods. Clients also get 2 complete outfits every 3 months. They also have a shoe fund. P.A.T.H serves the entire York School District 1 area which is most of western York including the towns of York, Sharon, Hickory Grove and Smyrna. Though there are some clients in rural areas, most clients live in the City of York. Some do come from other towns in the district but many in the other towns don't realize P.A.T.H is a resource for them in York.

There aren't really any other service providers in the area because everyone channels food, money and time to P.A.T.H. However there are 3 county offices, Pilgrims Inn, Salvation Army and Carolina Community Center located in Rock Hill [on east side of the county] where clients can get additional help if they require more than P.A.T.H. can provide. P.A.T.H. is open MWF from 9am to noon and on average see about 300 clients a month. The demographics are half white and half black with the majority being families (single and two parent homes) although there are quite a few elderly, ex cons (they are located down the road from the jail and many times are the first stop for those getting out of jail). About one quarter to half of the clients are short term and half to three quarters are long term.

Recently there has been a lot of job loss in the area due to the textile mills closing. Overall, clients have a low level of education. Many have high school degrees but have learning or drug problems. Some clients can't read or write. Typically they have blue collar or minimum wage jobs such as Wal-Mart, McDonald's or mills (mainly textiles). There is some subsistence fishing in the area. She sees very poor people fishing in still ponds, local creeks and streams and in Lake Wiley. She doesn't think there is much subsistence hunting because it requires more supplies and it is for the more affluent.

Her clients suffer from several different health concerns/diseases. She has several with HIV, many that are addicted to cigarettes, some disabled and A LOT of diabetes. She also noted that she has many who have cancer and that York County has a high incidence of cancer. She received a letter yesterday from the city stating that the water had been contaminated and that it didn't need to be boiled yet but that the city would keep them informed.

She doesn't believe that the Lee Nuclear Station would have a significant impact on most of her clients because they are too far away. Some may benefit from a construction job but most don't even have transportation to get to a job. She mentioned that they are overbuilt in the area for new nice housing, that landlords charge 600 or 700 a month for rent in an apartment so they do have a severe shortage of lower-income affordable housing. She also doesn't think many

construction workers/operations workers would choose to live there because the area doesn't have much to offer in the way of services or affordable housing.