

LevyCEm Resource

From: Mary Olson [nirs@main.nc.us]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2008 10:20 PM
To: LevyColeis Resource
Subject: Levy County Comments / request for extension of Public Comment period
Attachments: scoping comments levy.doc

see attached.

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Comment Number: 29

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From: Mary Olson

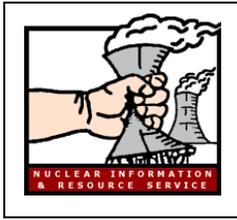
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Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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Re: Docket ID: [Docket Nos. 52-029 AND 52-030]

NRC ACTION: Environmental Impact Statement; Notice of Intent;
Progress Energy Florida, Inc.; Levy Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, Combined
License Application And Limited Work Authorization

FROM: Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) via the Southeast Office
NIRS ACTION: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period and Scoping
Comments

NIRS is a national organization with members in all 50 states, including Florida and
communities in the immediate area around the Levy site.

1) Request for extension of the comment period:

In recognition of the Holiday season and the fact that the Progress Energy proposal is in a league of its own – the only “green fields” site not previously licensed for nuclear construction – NIRS asks the Commission to extend the comment period by a minimum of 30 days. We regret that we have not made this request sooner, however it is in the interests of the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act that affected parties be able to participate in this process fully. The fact that more than half of this comment period falls in the range of Thanksgiving and Christmas / Chanukah / Buddha’s Enlightenment / Winter Solstice (NIRS members, including those in Florida, do celebrate across this spectrum) means that people have had to either forgo family celebration or forgo participation in this process. If extension is granted we would appreciate a direct notice of this fact (828-675-1792 / nirs@main.nc.us) and we will notify NIRS members and members of the public with whom we are in contact in Florida. Thank you.

2) Scoping Comments under the National Environmental Policy Act:

NIRS supports all comments submitted by local and statewide residents raising concerns about the safety of this project as well as human and environmental health concerns, including (but not limited to) those of Rhonda Roff, Emily Casey, Josh and Sally Dickenson.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we are compelled to point out that building a new nuclear power reactor at all, anywhere is a “major federal action” not in and of itself, but also because it has now been almost 34 years since a new nuclear power reactor was ordered that actually went on-line. As such, the 15 some combined operating licensing actions now pending before the NRC constitute together this major federal action. Since NRC is implementing NEPA at each site, there is an overall effect of truncation since the decision to license a nuclear power reactor at all is not being considered. Nonetheless, the fact that the Levy County site is the only true “green field”

application brings this matter into ever clearer focus. Therefore we offer here a series of issues that we believe MUST be considered in the FEDERAL environmental evaluation of this federal action – to license a site that has never previously been licensed for a new nuclear-waste-generating and radionuclide-leaking site. This proposed sacrifice (and approval of an activity that will likely garner direct public subsidy) must be weighed against:

- Current reevaluation of the Waste Confidence Decision by the Commission – to affirm dry cask storage as THE source of federal confidence in continuing to produce high-level radioactive waste in the form of irradiated nuclear fuel
 - NRC must evaluate the Levy site for permanent – or at least a century + 20 years (time frame for current dry cask licensing regime) storage of irradiated fuel – please include:
 - climate crisis informed projections of temperature (and impact on air-cooled waste storage)
 - climate crisis informed projections of rainfall / water availability
 - climate crisis informed projections of sea level

- Current – and possible future lack – of any facility licensed under 10CFR61 for the permanent disposal of so-called low-level waste. If NRC is planning to license the expanded production of this waste production of this waste for which there is no permanent disposition that is currently licensed – what will the impacts (procreative, health, safety, environment, socio-economic, economic, legal, security) be on Levy County if a so-called “temporary plan” becomes a defacto permanent “solution”?
 - The environmental impact statement must include the environmental impact of any possible “short-term” plan that Progress (or NRC) plan to employ to deal with the operational waste that would be generated at this site. These “short-term” options may include:
 - on-site storage – de facto permanent would mean that the waste never actually leaves the site, so the County is effectively becoming both a “low-level” and a “high-level” dump site – please apply the above climate informed projections to a the so-called “low-level” waste as well.
 - shipping to a radioactive waste processor for decontamination and release – please include a complete assessment in the environmental impact statement of the impacts of Levy-generated waste on the public, workers (including transport), processor community, and eventual “end-users” of any materials released for re-use or recycle, or impact of disposal in municipal land-fills
 - shipping to a processor / waste broker for storage – please analyze all impacts to the public workers (including transport), host community and the potential of this plan reverting to on-site storage since it is likely that such storage would be time-limited
 - incineration – same as above
 - combinations of all of these in a “shell game” that still does not resolve the fundamental problem of making this waste with no where for it to end up.

- Given the striking fact that there has not been a new reactor license that was not subsequently canceled in more than 30 years, under NEPA there should be a specific comparison to other alternatives that includes a comparison of the wastes, emissions and routine releases from various forms of energy. Please include carbon footprint in this analysis – and include the mining and production of the fuel and the handling of the wastes in that analysis. We all know that coal has very bad emissions and wastes as well, however it is time that NRC includes a fair and balanced assessment of nuclear compared to the fastest growing electric power generating capacity on the planet: wind. Concentrating solar is growing as well – and while new forms of hydro are still under development, some of these could be included as well. While you are at it, please include the so-called “Gen IV” reactors since they are being invoked by the industry as THE REASON to build the current sorry generation 2 (it is a stretch to call these same-old, same-old PWRs and BWRs Gen 3). We need some good data disclosure on the wastes of Gen II, Gen III and Gen IV – it would a service for NRC to give us these comparisons.
- Energy Yield – or Energy Balance / Thermal Pollution – please start including in your side-by-sides of the different alternatives an honest disclosure of energy in vs energy out...include the mining and production of the fuel and handling of the wastes. It is high time that the younger generation get to SEE that 2/3 of the radioactive waste generated in this process did NOT make electric power. The latent heat issue needs full disclosure in the context of efficiency of power production. It is not appropriate to assert that wind and solar are intermittent forms of power and operate at a lower capacity without in the same comparison pointing out that power production that depends on steam wastes 2/3 of the fuel by releasing the latent heat of phase transition as thermal pollution, not power.
- A full disclosure of the methodology of projecting supply of cooling water over the course of the license period. A disclosure of the ways in which climate change has or has not been factored and an explanation of either choice.
- An examination of the supply of uranium that is cost-effective and energy-balance-effective to use for fuel. A disclosure of assumptions made in licensing 2 new reactors that would operate 40 – 60 years while other nations are also expanding their nuclear generating capacity and the impact on both cost to operate and reliability of this form of power generation.
- Please assess the sacrifice zone that NRC will be creating by this license action. Please include various scenarios – for instance – licensee contaminates ground water – since NRC has not been able to prevent this at dozens of currently licensed sites, it should be assumed to have a reasonable likelihood of happening at Levy, second would be the burial of wastes on the site and need for long-term license or institutional controls, third would be in the event of some type of local accident, fourth would be disclosure of estimates, as were made in the CRAC II report – of a fuel pool accident and a reactor accident. In this day and age, it should also include projections of impact were BOTH containments were to be lost.

- Since the site is on top of karsts – spring recharge areas – the sacrifice must assess the loss of this natural water resource regardless of any spill, contamination or accident – simply by construction.
- Given the likelihood that we are entering a period of reduced availability of fresh water – NRC must project not only the environmental impact of such sacrifice of fresh water – but also the human impact in terms of the whole fresh water system in the area, and the economic impact. Is it possible that the profit margin on that freshwater could in only a decade or two actually be greater for a corporation like Progress? This society has convinced itself that electric power is vital to our survival. NRC in implementing NEPA must remember and evaluate resources based on the truth – living human beings need in this order: air, water, food and then a whole bunch of things – somewhere down that list is electric power. Again, please enlist a climate crisis expert to help you with the assumptions you use when you project water availability.
- Look at rising sea water temperature – and all water temperature – with respect to the cooling of the reactor. It was a Swedish reactor that, about 6 years ago had to go to low power because the Scandinavian ocean waters were too warm to meet tech specs...or was it the condenser?
- Address the climate crisis head-on: compare nuclear energy (including fuel production and waste management) to other forms of electric power generation – besides coal which IS the problem—for contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Please also include systemic programs that produce “nega-watts” – also called energy efficiency – but in this case NOT the action of individual consumers, but actual institutional programs whether by utility corporations or independent administrators. The people who decided to promote new reactor licenses (Dick Cheney, George Bush for two) liked to claim that nuclear energy will “solve the climate crisis” – is this true? Is it the most cost effective way? This is particularly important, since NRC’s licensing decision would trigger the use of massive public subsidy in the form of tax dollars and also public loan guarantees. It is NRC’s fiduciary responsibility to address the climate issue head-on and disclose real facts about the comparative value of the public’s investment in fighting this imminent threat.
- In addition to the comparison of wastes and emissions people living on the Nature Coast of Florida deserve to know in specific terms (measurable units) the amount of radioactivity that will be released from the site as:
 - radioactive air emissions – including routine and batch releases
 - including both projections of total source term and also concentration
 - other pollutants with or without radioactive mixing
 - releases of liquid radioactive wastes – and other chemicals released together or separately, with total amounts and projected concentration
 - release of heat to both air and water – and amount of water that will leave the site as vapor

- It is not acceptable to state that the climate crisis is speculative, nor is it acceptable to contemplate granting a federal license that will result in billions of dollars of taxpayer and electric-power consumer money being spent on something that is not going to address that crisis – but the public funding is being justified under such a banner. This is either delusion or fraud.
- Word has it that there is a mining operation that uses dynamite right across the street from the site Progress is proposing to use for fission. This will result in questions that pertain more directly to the FSAR, but in the accident assessment of the EIS, it would be appropriate to include not only the potential for a seismic event that triggers an accident, but also in the light of the recent Palo Verde pipe bomb, to consider the security implications of such proximity.
- Assuming that Part 20 is being fully implemented and enforced – and no, I am not attacking the rule – though we would like to – and assuming ALARA is being added on top, why have two studies in the last couple of years found a direct (statistically significant) correlation between distance of residence from a nuclear power plant and incidence of leukemia? Please include and account for these studies in your finding of impact.

Hoffmann W et al. 2007. *Childhood leukemia in the vicinity of the Geesthacht nuclear establishments near Hamburg, Germany*. Environ Health Perspect 115:947–952.

Schmitz-Feuerhake I et al. 1997. *Leukemia in the proximity of a boiling-water nuclear reactor: Evidence of population exposure by chromosome studies and environmental radioactivity*. Environ Health Perspect 105(suppl 6):1499–1504.

We regret to leave this activity off at this point – more complete comments will be added if an extension of time is granted – see #1 above.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Olson
Southeast Regional Coordinator
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

