

PMNorthAnna3COLNPEmails Resource

From: Barbara C [jonesyc@peoplepc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 6:00 PM
To: Alicia Williamson; NorthAnnaCOLAEIS Resource
Subject: Comments Re: Draft SEIS
Attachments: DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.doc

Dear Ms. Williamson,

Attached please find my comments on the Draft SEIS. I was unable to attend last night's meeting as I am ill.

Do you need contact information for notifying the Central Virginian of the error in this week's paper. Just email me back and I will send it to you.

Thank you.

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DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 3, 2009 5PM LOUISA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

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QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING:

- 1. IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT DOMINION CANNOT GO FORWARD WITH THE REACTOR ORIGINALLY SELECTED AND ON WHICH ITS COL APPLICATION WAS BASED, HOW WILL THE NRC AMEND THIS DRAFT? WILL THERE BE AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING?**

- 2. GIVEN THAT THE RESULTS OF THE IFIM STUDY HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, HOW WILL THE NRC AMEND THIS DRAFT TO REFLECT ITS EVALUATION OF THAT STUDY? WILL THERE BE AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWING THE UPDATED DRAFT SEIS?**

- 3. WILL THE FACILITATOR PLEASE DIRECT THAT ALL SPEAKERS GATHERED HERE TONIGHT LIMIT THEIR COMMENTS TO THE SUBJECT MATTER: THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIS, AND DIRECT THAT ANYONE WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW THIS RULE WILL BE ASKED TO SIT DOWN.**

My name is Barbara Crawford and I reside here in Louisa County, near Lake Anna. I am a member of FOLA, LACA, and the Lake Anna Lake Level Task Force. Tonight I am speaking for myself.

Harry Ruth, who cannot be with us this evening, has prepared comments on behalf of FOLA, the Friends of Lake Anna. If there is anyone here who would like a copy of his comments, please see me after the meeting.

COMMENTS:

A. THE PROCESS IS FLAWED

One year ago, we met here for a Scoping Meeting at which time the NRC asked the public, governmental and tribal entities, and any interested parties and organizations to give testimony identifying “new and significant” information which should be the subject of the supplemental EIS. Many people participated, we were here until 11:30 pm, and the comments were transcribed.

Then, at great expense to all of us, the taxpayers, the transcription was divided into segments and all of the information was summarily dismissed as irrelevant, of little significance, or up to the state to mitigate. The NRC also stated that they were certain that Dominion would remedy many of the problems identified.

There is no reason for any of us to believe that this evening will be any different. Will anything we say tonight be taken seriously or are all of gathered here tonight wasting our time?

It is my opinion that the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is a tragic waste of the trees that were cut down in order to publish it.

B. THE TIMING OF THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIS IS ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE

Dominion has announced that it cannot utilize the reactor that it had selected for the 3rd reactor at NAPS (North Anna Nuclear Power Plant). Dominion has mounted a search for a different reactor. The problem is that the COL (Combined Operating License) application is predicated on the reactor originally selected. It will be necessary for the NRC to open the SEIS after Dominion has picked a new reactor. The NRC will need to reevaluate the Impact Statement based on this new information

and then amend the Draft and hold yet another public meeting. This is a gross waste of taxpayers' money. The NRC should have waited to finalize this Draft until such time as the reactor is selected.

As part of the Early Site Permit, Dominion was required to conduct an Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) study to determine the impacts of the proposed 3rd reactor on the North Anna River below the Lake Anna Dam. Dominion has not yet finished that study and, by its own admission, the NRC will have to study the results of that study and analyze those impacts prior to releasing a final Supplemental Impact Study. It makes no sense that the NRC released this draft now rather than waiting for the IFIM study which is expected very soon. This Draft will have to be amended and a new public hearing scheduled. This compounds the waste of taxpayers' money.

C. INCREDIBLY NO STUDY OF THE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED 3RD REACTOR ON LAKE ANNA HAS YET BEEN CONDUCTED OR REQUIRED BY THE NRC.

Numerous requests have been made to the NRC, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Dominion itself to study all of the impacts on Lake Anna that will be brought on by the 3rd reactor.

It is imperative that we know how the lake will be affected. The increasing drought cycles have aggravated the low water levels on the lake. Many thousands of people live on or near the lake and many more use it on a daily basis. The Lake Anna State Park is a treasured resource where families gather to recreate.

The normal pool level is 250 feet, but the lake is rarely full, whether from drought, summer heat, Dominion's failure to monitor the flow over the dam, and, of course, from the operation of Units 1 and 2. We need to know to what extent the addition of a 3rd reactor will aggravate what is already a serious situation.

When the lake falls below the 250 feet normal pool level, which is most of the time, the following problems occur:

1. Homeowners have mudflats in front of their homes instead of lakefront;
2. Homeowners are therefore unable to put their boats in the water, thus depriving them of one of the main reasons for purchasing lakefront land;
3. Boulders, stumps, and sandbars which were previously submerged, become exposed or just below the surface, causing serious hazards to boating on the lake;
4. The shoreline becomes destabilized;
5. The 35 dry fire hydrants on the Louisa County side of the lake become unusable, making it difficult for firefighters to put out fires;
6. Water temperatures which are already seriously elevated rise to levels that pose health hazards to the public; and
7. The many businesses which depend on a healthy and thriving environment at the lake are threatened with economic disaster, as the public goes elsewhere to recreate.

D. DROUGHT CYCLES ARE INCREASING IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA AND THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHEAST

Whether from Climate Change or Global Warming, drought cycles are increasing rapidly in our area and throughout all of the

Southeast. Dominion, when it selected this area for the construction of a nuclear power plant, estimated that there would be a drought approximately every 20 years. In reality, we have experienced serious droughts in 6 of the past 10 years. The water level in the lake has fallen below 248 feet in 5 of the past 8 years.

In 2002, after a 3 year drought, the water level fell to 245 feet and Dominion was faced with having to close down both Units 1 and 2. After that, Dominion extended its intake pipes which solved its problems but did nothing for all of the people who lived on and around the lake or who traveled there to recreate.

Faced with yet another reactor at the lake, the question must be asked: is there truly enough water to sustain 3 reactors without destroying the lake for all of the people who live there?

E. DOMINION HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PROPOSED 3RD REACTOR WILL DOUBLE THE DROUGHT CYCLES AT LAKE ANNA

For all of the reasons listed above, this could be a disaster for Lake Anna. It is important to remember that Lake Anna is not Dominion's possession, to do with as it sees fit. When Dominion was given permission to build a nuclear power plant here in Louisa County and to construct a dam and create Lake Anna as a means to cool its nuclear reactors, it was made clear that the lake would have 2 purposes: 1. to cool the reactors and 2. to create a recreational lake for the citizens of Virginia and the many others who would travel here to enjoy it. Soon after, the Commonwealth of Virginia decided to build a State Park here.

It would be tragic if one use for the lake were permitted to destroy the other. It is for this reason that a comprehensive study of the

impacts of the proposed 3rd reactor on Lake Anna must be undertaken. Just as the NRC mandated that the IFIM study be accomplished by Dominion prior to the issuance of the Combined Operating License, it is now appropriate that the NRC require Dominion to conduct a comprehensive study of the impacts on the Lake itself.

F. CONCLUSION

We would be remiss if we did not take a moment to acknowledge that next month is the 30th Anniversary of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history.

We all hope and pray that no such event ever take place again, either here or anywhere in the world. But Three Mile Island did happen and we must not forget.

Dominion is at this moment engaged in a contest to see which power company will be first to get a new reactor on line. To the victor go many spoils, by way of a very large sum of money to be paid by the Federal Government. That's us, the taxpayers.

A state of the art reactor run by state of the art computers still requires some 750 humans to operate and maintain it. That's a lot of potential human error.

At another of these public meetings, several years ago, I met a gentleman as we exited this building. When he heard that I had grown up near Harrisburg, PA, he told me that he had spent the first 13 years of his career with the NRC "cleaning up the mess at Three Mile Island". The next time that someone tries to tell you that Three Mile Island was no big deal, remember that it took 13 years to clean up that very big deal. For years, the local papers

reported, after the fact of course, when radioactive gases had been released into the air and when radioactive water had been released into the Susquehanna River.

Every effort must be made to insure that this process here at NAPS be done correctly. Everyone involved must use caution and proceed slowly and with full knowledge of what we are getting into. Each step must be taken without shortcuts and without regard for the huge carrot being dangled at the end of that stick, to make sure that we are safe and that our environment is not destroyed in the process.

To paraphrase President Obama: we will go forward with nuclear power if and when we are absolutely certain that it is safe.

Respectfully submitted,

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