

March 19, 2009 (8:00am)

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Office of the Secretary
Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Docket NO.
5 2-025 / 026-COL

The Honorable Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3 F23
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Please investigate and address the following concerns about the expansion of two more nuclear power plants at the Plant Vogtle in the state of Georgia.

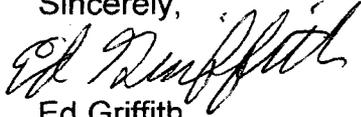
1. **Water Use** Georgia is in a unique position because it faces a drought of many years and for the foreseeable future. The present plant takes 60 million gallons of water from the Savannah River and only returns one third of it. Further, the water it returns is hot and tends to destroy the local habitat. If all four nuclear plants are running, the nuclear facility will use more than the residents of Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah combined!
2. **Do we need it?** Georgia has not yet tried energy conservation measures which are cheaper than new plant construction. By using energy conservation measures, California doubled its GDP and raised its population 40% while keeping its energy usage stable. Efficiency is much cheaper than producing new energy at one to four cents per kilowatt hour saved.
3. **Other alternatives** There are other alternatives which have not been tried which could be on line sooner. Especially as measured over the lifetime of the plant, wind is already cheaper and quicker to produce than nuclear power and solar soon will be if the costs continue to go down. Forbes magazine said Georgia is the third best state for renewable energy. Both the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech have validated the potential of renewable energy in Georgia. The University of Georgia said we could meet 12% of our energy needs through biomass and Georgia Tech says off shore wind power could provide 10,000 megawatts. (Denmark has been harvesting off shore wind since 1991.) Other countries use far more renewable energy than us, so the technology is there.
4. **Costs** The original two plants at Vogtle went from 660 million to eight billion dollars. These two new plants start at 12 billion dollars and who knows what the final cost will be. In the over 50 years that nuclear plants have been operated in the United States (all built between 1957 and 1996) they are always far more behind schedule, over budget, and expensive to maintain than originally claimed. Efficiency savings can cost

as little as 1 – 4 cents per kilowatt hour whereas nuclear energy is on a slope to cost 17 – 22 cents a kilowatt hour, maybe more.

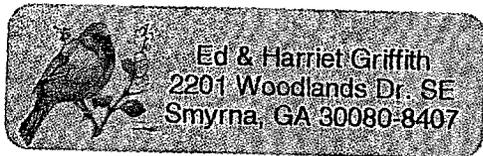
5. **Where to store nuclear waste** Yucca Mountain in Nevada will not be ready until 2017 at the earliest and may never accept further wastes. The French are quietly withdrawing from any new nuclear because of leaks and other problems they have had in running them. Not having a place to store the waste means ultimately it will be stored in Georgia.

Thank you for your consideration. Please consider not expanding nuclear energy in Georgia.

Sincerely,



Ed Griffith
2201 Woodlands Dr. SE
Smyrna, CA 30080-8407



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