PMComanchePekNPEm Resource

From: Karen Hadden [karen@seedcoalition.org]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 10:51 AM
To: Monarque, Stephen
Cc: Willingham, Michael; Burton, William
Subject: Urgent Request
Attachments: 1-12-09 SEED letter to NRC.pdf; CP Public Participation Problems.pdf

Please see attached letter.

Thanks, Karen Hadden

Karen Hadden, Executive Director
Sustainable Energy & Economic Development (SEED) Coalition
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Subject: Urgent Request
Sent Date: 2/13/2009 10:51:22 AM
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From: Karen Hadden

Created By: karen@seedcoalition.org

Recipients:
"Willingham, Michael" <Michael.Willingham@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Burton, William" <William.Burton@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Monarque, Stephen" <Stephen.Monarque@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

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Files	**Size**	**Date & Time**
MESSAGE	248	2/13/2009 10:49:30 AM
1-12-09 SEED letter to NRC.pdf	215591	
CP Public Participation Problems.pdf	44110	

Options
Priority: Standard
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Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:

Karen Hadden, Executive Director
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February 12, 2009

Stephen Monarque, Project Manager
US-APWR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Stephen Monarque and Michael Willingham,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition, an organization with members within the 50 mile radius surrounding the Comanche Peak site, including Fort Worth, with a population of 702,850 (2008 data.)

I understand that the NRC is considering denying the request I made on January 6th for an extension of the comment period for the Environmental Scoping meeting, and am providing these written comments to clearly document the damage done and the need for and importance of remediation, which should include both an extension of the comment period and holding an additional scoping hearing in Fort Worth, in the evening when citizens can attend, and with a three week notice. Other communities have had similar hearings in more than one location.

SEED Coalition is concerned that the January 6, 2009 Glen Rose Comanche Peak environmental scoping meeting was hastily called and poorly posted The public in the Comanche Peak region never received adequate notice and therefore has already been harmed, hampered in our ability to effectively participate in a meaningful way in the environmental scoping process and limited in our opportunity to provide input regarding the environmental report. The result could be a weaker environmental report, lacking vital input from local citizens, and potentially impacting and worsening the eventual environmental impacts that the local community may suffer if the proposed reactors are built. The lack of proper notice undermines meaningful public participation, and violates the rights of citizens to a proper hearing under federal law, the National Environmental Policy Act.

The option of submitting written information until February 17, 2009 is not adequate and does not equate to having a public meeting at which citizens can talk in person with NRC representatives and learn from the discussion. Our members' have already been harmed by the lack of adequate due process. Many people in the region never even knew that such a meeting had

already been held, and at least one media representative has said that Luminant's presumed December 19, 2008 press release to announce the meeting had never arrived at their office. Citizen groups had to scramble to put out the word to the public since the NRC did not effectively due so.

Due process has been lacking in making a well posted public meeting opportunity available and we seek an immediate remedy to this problem and oversight. The NRC should immediately schedule an additional environmental scoping meeting for Luminant's COLA for Comanche Peak Units 3 & 4 at readily accessible location in Fort Worth, the most populous city in the 50 mile radius region. It should be held in the evening, when citizens can attend and a minimum of a three-week notice of the meeting should be given in order adequate notice and to allow for significant public participation. The NRC maintained on January 6th that citizen input strengthens the end product, so surely they want to do a good job on this front, and should make this effort to remedy the inadequacies so far.

Even citizens who had already identified themselves to the NRC as interested parties and had been told they were on a NRC email notification list never received an email notice of the January 6th meeting. Environmental groups on the notification list learned about the meeting on the evening of December 24th because a phone call was made by Chet Poslusny of NRC to Public Citizen, and someone in the Public Citizen office was kind enough to notify others by phone on Christmas Eve. I personally was bringing my mother home from a hospital at 9 PM on Christmas Eve when I got a call from Public Citizen to this effect. Several days later additional phone calls were made by Chet Poslusny, and the message left on my phone then was the first that I got any message from the NRC.

SEED Coalition never received any email or written notice despite the fact that I am on the notification list. A meeting held without written notice, or even so much as an email notice, to those on the notification list is an inadequately posted meeting that falls short of due process requirements.

The 12-day so called "notice" for the environmental scoping meeting occurred during the height of the winter holiday season, a time when people are typically out of town, on vacation, or involved with family get-togethers or travel, not working or checking email or business calls. The presumed notification timeframe included both Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Among those who did get the message through environmental groups doing outreach, we believe there may have been citizens sho were unable to attend because they didn't learn of the meeting until they returned to work on Monday, Jan. 5th, making it difficult to get off work the very next day for a meeting in Glen Rose.

Excuses made by NRC officials regarding the short notice for the Jan. 6th meeting included the limited availability of the facility in which the meeting

was held. Any number of options could have been used instead to allow for a more reasonable date, one that would allow for proper public notice. Having examined the NRC web site postings for various NRC meetings held around the country it appears that three weeks is a typical public notice timeframe.

Members of SEED Coalition are being shortchanged by not having a public scoping meeting that they have heard about beforehand and that is easy for them to attend. These are people who potentially could be impacted by nuclear accidents, radiation releases and electric rate hikes. They deserve to be heard in person.

The NRC has demonstrated an amazing lack of public accountability so far in the Comanche Peak 3 & 4 license application process. Attached is a short document prepared by the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition listing the different impediments already faced already by the public in the Comanche Peak application process. More responsiveness is needed on these fronts as well, particularly in getting information posted on the NRC web site in a timely manner.

Please inform me as to whether you will schedule an additional environmental scoping meeting in Fort Worth in the evening, with a three-week minimum public notice. I look forward to your response, and can be contacted at karen@seedcoalition.org or by phone at 512-797-8481.

Sincerely,

Karen Hadden

Karen Hadden
Executive Director, SEED Coalition

**H HHHH