

From: Barbara A Oneal [barbaraoneal@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2010 11:03 AM
To: Habighorst, Peter; Park, James
Cc: Linda Modica
Subject: Letter from Los Alamos (by Ron Wolf)
Attachments: Letter from Los Alamos (by Ron Wolf).pdf

Pete and James:

Attached is an article by Ron Wolf entitled "Letter from Los Alamos." Found this vintage piece (1981) in our collection. Not only is it an interesting article, thought it might be helpful to the NRC for several reasons:

- 1) Material Control and Accountability (MC&A) issues at NFS, Erwin, TN; Savannah River, SC; and Apollo, PA (no longer producing); and,
- 2) It shows that in 1981 the NUMEC plant in Apollo, PA was producing fuel for the Navy while the people of Erwin were being told by the NRC that without NFS the nuclear fleet would have no fuel.

(See excerpt from 1981 [The Atlanta-Journal Constitution](#) article below):

Despite chronic problems at the facility over the years, which also include waste discharges as well as inventory discrepancies, most security breakdowns, including the latest, have been treated as routine occurrences, NRC officials say. Critics of the Erwin facility, including some past and present NRC staff members, say the NRC is sometimes reluctant or hesitant about enforcing strict regulations against the facility because it is essential in the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Program. "What you're talking about is a matter of national security," said one staff member. "That puts us sort of between a rock and a hard place. We've got a **24 year old facility** that's had some problems, without it our nuclear fleet wouldn't have any fuel." "That's what you have to consider," said one former high-ranking NRC official, who described the aging facility as "**a crock of a plant.**" [The Atlanta Journal and Constitution](#), 12/02/81.

As is often said, history repeats itself. However, it can also be a valuable teacher, if we pay attention.

Best regards,
Barbara O'Neal
f/Erwin Citizens Awareness Network