

Lopas, Sarah

Subject: FW: William States Lee Nuclear Power Plant

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Thomas [mailto:et@prop1.org]
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 8:15 PM
To: OPA Resource
Subject: William States Lee Nuclear Power Plant

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

Ellen Thomas (et@prop1.org) on Monday, August 16, 2010 at 20:14:31

comments: Stop the proposed William States Lee Nuclear Power Plant in Gaffney, SC

because:

1. Duke and SCG&E are planning to expand Cliffside Coal Plant and want to add 5 new nuclear reactors (2 at Lee in Gaffney and 3 at Summer in Jenkinsville) on the mis-named "Broad" River, perhaps hoping that there will be no droughts such as those in 2005 and 2008. This jeopardizes the entire Broad River watershed and drinking source for Columbia, SC -- and other farms and towns downstream, all the way to the Atlantic.
2. Because of the economy, Duke Power is dredging up support in communities near the proposed plant with promises of jobs and cheap energy. Both of these promises are suspect.
3. Historically, most of the people who build and maintain nuclear power plants are seasoned workers who come from other places. They bring families into the community who compete for existing jobs. Once the plant is built, the construction crew will either leave town or be unemployed.
4. Duke Energy wants permission to transfer the cost of building the nuclear power plants to electricity customers BEFORE the plants ever go online. This will increase electricity costs for years to come. And it is not inconceivable that the plant never will go online, as happened in Gaffney with the Cherokee plant in the 1980's.
5. The "C-Pond" would wipe out a substantial piece of forest, and would be dependent upon a stream which is known to have dried up during the drought of 2008, or (if pumped out of the Broad River) would significantly reduce the amount of water that would be needed downstream for agriculture and drinking water.
6. Nuclear Power is Expensive, \$6 to \$8 billion per reactor; with promised bailouts from our government -- in other words, the taxpayers, whether we like it or not.
7. Terrorist attacks, or accidents, or leakage from tornados, hurricanes, or floods, could cost thousands of lives and billions of dollars.
8. Nuclear waste remains radioactive for millions of years.
9. We still need effective nuclear waste management.

10 "Thermal pollution" kills plants, fish, and other organisms, stressing the entire environment. The proposed W.S. Lee nuclear power plant could withdraw up to 84 million gallons of water per day from the broad river and return less than half back to the river, hot. Hot water discharge and the release of radioactive contaminants and hazardous chemicals which are historically inevitable will threaten wildlife and human health, and will seriously change the quality of life of people living along the river who fish, boat, swim....

11. Local water supply is threatened by the potential for radioactivity leaking from the reactor (as documented at dozens of sites, such as Vermont Yankee's tritium leak, which led to Vermont legislators' vote not to renew the license).

12. There is no "safe" level of radiation, which can damage reproductive cells and lead to genetic mutations and cancer, damage the immune system, cause leukemia, and more. (World Health Organization)

13. Nuclear power reactors create plutonium, which can be used to make bombs. It is one of the most toxic man-made substances known, remaining radioactive for more than 240,000 years.

14. Uranium mining is highly toxic, and so are processing and reprocessing. The reprocessing which nuclear advocates may argue makes it "renewable," produce obscenely toxic chemicals along with the electricity, horrific bi-products which somehow must be hidden for hundreds of centuries, or at least until some genius discovers how to harmlessly neutralize radiation and toxic chemicals, which may take a very long time. All of these activities have a serious "carbon footprint," so the allegation that nuclear power is clean is untrue.

15. Nuclear power is not renewable, nor is it natural.

16. Personally, I would not be interested in drinking water or eating fish from the Broad River if I were anywhere downstream of Gaffney.

I live 40 miles upstream from Gaffney (fortunately), having returned home to the mountains after a lifetime of working against nuclear weapons, which couldn't exist without nuclear power.

Now I find there are plans to breed plutonium in Gaffney. I think of the big winds that blow in from the southeast - hurricanes, tornados. I think of the plant in North Carolina that had to flush out its pipes in the midst of a hurricane, flooding farmlands and pig farms with radioactivity. I wonder how strong these new reactors will be, especially with the water tank perched ABOVE, vulnerable to the winds. I think how I took this beautiful area for granted for nigh on 63 years, but now I realize that it, too, this heavenly retreat, is horribly threatened. I've traveled the country learning about the environmental devastations along the rivers and lakes in the West and East, Utah and Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington, Tennessee and Ohio and South Carolina, and so on, caused by nuclear weapons and nuclear power wastes, and I wonder, do these people really know what they're doing? Don't they know THEIR grandchildren will be the victims of clinging to outdated!

and lethal ideas?

I have learned that high on the list of possible sites under consideration to replace Yucca Mountain is 27 miles from my house, in Sandy Mush, NC. I've learned that if this site is chosen, the railroad track 50 yards from my house will be used to carry high-level nuclear waste from the southern states up the steepest grade in the U.S, between Tryon and Saluda. My house is supposed to be my daughter and granddaughter's sanctuary someday, as it is mine. There are millions of people who live tucked in the hills and valleys between here and there.

How can we allow this to happen?

We must protect our precious environment for future generations, and not leave them with even worse problems than their ancestors, in ignorance or greed, have helped create.

organization:

address1: 401 Wilcox Road, , NC 28782

address2:

city: Tryon

state: NC

zip: 28782

country: usa

phone:
