

OCT 23 1973

50-438
-439

Mrs. Pat Oreszko
2163 Shancey Lane
College Park, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Oreszko:

The White House has asked us to reply to your recent letter to President Nixon; we appreciate the time you have taken to share your views with him.

As you probably know, the nuclear power plant you refer to is the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant which the Tennessee Valley Authority is seeking permission to build in Jackson County, Alabama, about six miles northeast of Scottsboro. As proposed by TVA, the plant would use two nuclear reactors, each capable of producing about 1,300,000 kilowatts of electricity.

The AEC's Regulatory Staff has started its safety and environmental impact reviews of the TVA application, but it will be a year or more before they are completed. On the basis of its safety review, the Staff will look at the total environmental impact which would result from construction and operation of the plant and consider this impact in terms of the available alternatives; in addition, the benefits which would result from construction and operation of the plant, such as meeting an urgent need for power, will have to be taken into account.

Regardless of what conclusions the Regulatory Staff reaches, there are other steps which will have to be taken before a final decision can be reached on TVA's application. The safety aspects have to be reviewed independently by a group of experts called the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. Then there will have to be a public hearing to consider both safety and environmental matters. This hearing will be conducted by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which, based on its review of all the evidence, will decide if authorization should be given to build the plant.

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As part of an effort to make public participation in this process more effective, an early prehearing conference will be held in Scottsboro on November 1. The purpose of this prehearing conference will be to identify the issues, consider petitions to intervene and establish a schedule for other actions including the hearing.

The safety record of licensed nuclear power plants really is a remarkable one. They have been operating for more than 20 years and have accumulated a total of more than 175 reactor years of operating experience without injuring a member of the public. Of course, the operation of these plants is not absolutely risk-free since there is some risk associated with all human activities. But this was recognized very early in the development of nuclear power plants; consequently, they always have been subject to rigid safeguards. This is one of the reasons for the excellent safety record.

The reports you have read about Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, are based on charges by Dr. Ernest Sternglass regarding operation of the Shippingport reactor near there. These charges have been investigated by the AEC and the Environmental Protection Agency and have no basis in fact. And the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has conducted an independent investigation but has not yet reported on its findings. Dr. Sternglass has made similar charges about other nuclear power plants in other States and these charges similarly have been refuted by responsible public health organizations.

There is no disagreement, certainly on the part of the AEC, about the need to research and develop alternate sources of energy as well as to conserve energy. However, the technical and economic feasibility of using alternate sources, such as solar and geothermal, to produce large quantities of electricity has yet to be proved and the long-range environmental impact of these activities remains to be investigated. However, solar energy can be used to heat and cool houses and geothermal energy is being used to produce small quantities of electricity.

Mrs. Pat Oreszko

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OCT 23 1973

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views with the President and please let us know if we can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

(signed) John A. Harris

John A. Harris, Director
Office of Information Services

bcc: G. Ertter
DR-6273

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SURNAME ▶	FLIngram.cb	JJFuchard	JHarris			
DATE ▶	10/19/73	10/19/73	10/23/73			

Mrs. Pat Greenko
College Park, Ga.

CONTROL NUMBER
6273

FILE LOCATION

DATE OF DOCUMENT
9/24/73

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE
10/19/73

TO
The President

ACTION PROCESSING DATES
Acknowledged _____
Interim Reply _____
Final 5/ Harris 11/23/73

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

Chairman

Director of Regulation
X OIS

DESCRIPTION **ltr** Original Copy Other
Opposes construction of a nuclear power plant near Scottsboro, Ala. (Bellefonte 1 & 2)

REMARKS
DR-6266, 6273

REFERRED TO	DATE
Ingram E/action	10/15/73

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____
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Docket Files) 50-438
PDR) 50-439
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Mrs. Pat Groszko
College Park, Ga.

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9/24/73

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE

10/19/73

TO

ACTION PROCESSING DATES

Acknowledged _____

Interim Reply _____

Final _____

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

_____ Chairman

_____ Director of Regulation

X OLS

The President

DESCRIPTION **lcr** Original Copy Other

REMARKS

~~30-430, 439~~

Opposes construction of a nuclear power plant near Scottsboro, Ala. (Bellafonte 1 & 2)

REFERRED TO

DATE

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE
RECOMMENDED? _____

Diagram **f/action**

10/13/73

Cys:

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FROM

**Mrs. Pat Groszko
College Park, Ga.**

CONTROL NUMBER
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DATE OF DOCUMENT
9/24/73

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE
10/19/73

TO
The President

ACTION PROCESSING DATES
Acknowledged _____
Interim Reply _____
Final _____

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

Chairman

Director of Regulation
X **GIS**

DESCRIPTION **Ltr** Original Copy Other

REMARKS
~~62-6260, 6273~~

**Opposes construction of a nuclear power plant near Scottsboro,
Ala. (Bellefonte 1 & 2)**

REFERRED TO	DATE
Ingram <i>l/action</i>	10/15/73

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE
RECOMMENDED? _____

Cys:
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Docket Files) 50-438
PSR) 50-438
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No. 740602 Logging Date: October 10, 1973**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission**To: Director of Regulation Date: 10/12INCOMING FROM: Mrs. Pat Oreszko
College Park, GeorgiaDATE: September 24, 1973SUBJECT: Nuclear power plant near Scottsboro, Alabama**PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:** CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER GM, DR, GC, PA, IS SIGNATURE BLOCK OMITTED PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL WITH RESPONSE FOR DIRECT REPLY SEND COPY OF REPLY TO: CHAIRMAN (2) COMMISSIONERS SECRETARY FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR INFORMATION FOR RECOMMENDATION

REMARKS: _____

REC'D Off. Dir. of Reg.

Date 10/15/73Time 11:00FOR THE CHAIRMAN: Minnie Earle HargettWHEN SEPARATED FROM ENCLOSURES,
HANDLE THIS DOCUMENT AS

DR-6273

ACTION SLIP

51
A.E.C.

2163 Shancey Lane
College Park, Georgia
September 24, 1973

Dear President Nixon,

I am writing in regard to a proposed nuclear power plant near Scottsboro, Alabama, and urge you to please do all you can to prevent its being built.

I believe it is still too new an area for us to be building these plants all across America.

I realize we have a huge energy problem now, but I believe we must find other ways to solve it. Build the Alaskan Pipeline is one way; and I think we should find a way to prevent a steady rise in America's energy drain. We need to encourage people to use less: to not buy so many little

DK-6273

2/ electric gadgets such as electric knives, can openers, baby bottle warmers, etc. Perhaps not allow any more private homes built with air conditioning and not allow stores, offices, etc. to set temperatures below 75°.

Maybe something could be built onto homes, as in Israel, to catch sun's heat (solar energy) for home heating.

I sincerely believe we must find some ways besides being dependent on foreign countries or nuclear power plants.

Nuclear plants could be horrifying beyond belief if they were sabotaged or bombed; but without those happenings I read that the plant in Aliquippa, Pa. has caused an increase in infant mortality, stillbirths and cancer.

3/ In Midland Pa., 1 1/2 miles downstream from Aliquippa, Pa. death by cancer increased 184% in 4 years compared with an overall rise of 9% in the state. (This was reported in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine on 8-26-73).

Dr. Walter H. Jordan, assistant Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory wrote in Physics Today asking if we have yet reduced the risk to a tolerable level that we will ~~not~~ not have a serious accident?

I have two young children and I believe we cannot afford to gamble on something as terrifying as this — there must be other answers.

Please do not let this be built and try to close others.

Sincerely
Mr. Pat Oresko