

50-438
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Honorable Herman E. Talmadge
United States Senate

Dear Senator Talmadge:

Thank you for your recent communication forwarding Mrs. Pat Oreszko's recent letter to you; we appreciate having the opportunity to comment on it.

The nuclear power plant which is of concern to Mrs. Oreszko is the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant which the Tennessee Valley Authority is proposing to build in Jackson County, Alabama, about six miles northeast of Scottsboro. As proposed, the plant would use two pressurized water reactors, each having a capacity of about 1300 megawatts electric.

The AEC's Regulatory Staff has begun its safety and environmental reviews of the TVA application and it is expected that these reviews will be completed in about a year. On the basis of its safety review, the Staff will make its determination as to whether the proposed plant can be built and operated safely at the planned site. During its environmental review, the Staff will assess the total environmental impact which would be associated with construction and operation of the proposed plant and assess the impact in terms of the available alternatives and the benefits which would be derived, such as meeting an urgent need for power.

Beyond these reviews, the safety aspects of TVA's application must be reviewed by a group of independent experts called the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and a public hearing must be held to consider both safety and environmental matters. The hearing will be conducted by an independent, three-man Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Only after all these reviews are completed can a final determination be reached as to whether a construction permit should be issued or the application denied.

As an early step in the public hearing process, a prehearing conference has been scheduled for November 1 in Scottsboro. The purpose of this prehearing conference is to: permit

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identification of the key issues in the proceeding; take steps necessary for further identification of the issues; consider all petitions to intervene; and establish a schedule for further actions in the proceeding, including the evidentiary hearing itself.

The safety and environmental reviews and the hearing process are discussed in more detail in the two enclosed pamphlets -- "Federal Regulation of Nuclear Power Plants" by the AEC's Director of Regulation L. Manning Muntzing and "Step-by-Step Procedure in AEC Licensing of Nuclear Power Reactors."

Nuclear power plants have been used to produce electricity for close to 20 years now and totally have achieved an enviable safety record of more than 175 reactor years of operating experience without injuring a member of the public. One of the reasons for this excellent safety record is the fact that it has long been recognized that nuclear power plants must be subjected to rigid safety standards. Therefore, we believe that nuclear power can play an increasingly important role as one of the safe, environmentally-compatible means of helping to meet this country's growing energy requirements.

We agree fully that it is very important to research and develop as many alternate energy sources as possible and, at the same time, to place a heavy emphasis on conservation of energy. Further, it is true that it is technically and economically feasible to use solar energy to heat and cool houses and geothermal energy is being used to generate electricity on a small scale. However, the technical and economic feasibility of using these methods to generate electricity on a large scale has yet to be proved and, in addition, the long-range environmental impacts remain to be investigated.

In closing, we would like to point out that Mrs. Oreszko's comments regarding Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, probably result from charges by Dr. Ernest Sternglass that operation of the Shippingport reactor near Aliquippa has resulted in an increase in infant mortalities in that area. These charges were investigated by the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the AEC, and were found to have no basis in fact. In addition, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has held public hearings to consider the charges but has yet to report on its findings.

Honorable Herman E. Talmadge

- 3 -

We hope that this information will be helpful to you in replying to Mrs. Oreszko; however, if you do need additional information, please let us know. In the meantime, as you requested, we are returning her letter to you.

Sincerely,

Signed John A. Harris

John A. Harris, Director
Office of Information Services

Enclosures:

1. "Federal Regulation..."
2. "Step-by-Step Procedure..."
3. Letter fm Mrs. Pat Oreszko
dated September 24, 1973

bcc: OCR (3)
 G.Ertter (DR-6266)
 D. K. Davis, L:RP
 W. D. Paton, OGC
 J. A. Harris, OIS

PDR - 50-438

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LPDR

OFFICE ▶	OIS	OIS	OIS	OCR		
SURNAME ▶	FLIngram:mpm	JJFouchard	JAHarris	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE ▶	10/15/73	10/16/73	10/16/73	10/17/73		

FROM
Sen. Herman E. Talmadge (Ga.)

CONTROL NUMBER
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DATE OF DOCUMENT
Undated (recd 10/12/73)

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10/17/73

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Director of Regulation
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**Encl ltr for Mrs. Pat Groszke, College Park, Ga. - opposes
the construction of a nuclear power plant near Scottsboro, Ala.
(Belleville 1 & 2)**

REMARKS
BR-6254

Return incoming with reply

18767

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RECOMMENDED? _____

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DATE OF DOCUMENT

DATE RECEIVED

CONTROL NUMBER

MR. HERMAN E. SALMON (SA.)

UNCLASSIFIED

10/21/73

18767

SUSPENSE DATE

FILE CODE

12/17

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~~CONF. & UNCL. MR. SAL. HAS OPENED, COLLING FARM, GEORGIA
RE A PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT NEAR SCOTSDALE, ALA.,
AND WISHES THAT IT BE REVERSED~~

 CHAIRMAN DIV./OFFICE DIRECTOR GENERAL MANAGER ASST. GENERAL MANAGER

REMARKS:

ENCLOSURES

MR. SAL. HAS OPENED MR 9/24/73

REFERRED TO

DATE

RECEIVED BY

DATE

~~CONF.~~

10/11

PREPARED BY INGRAM

CONC. BY OCR

SIGNED HARRIS DTD. 10/17/73

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GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

FORM HQ-284
(4-68)

FROM: **MR. ROBERT E. TULLOGE (SA.)** DATE OF DOCUMENT: **EMERGENCY** DATE RECEIVED: **10/23/73** CONTROL NUMBER: **18767**

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PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF: CHAIRMAN DIV./OFFICE DIRECTOR
 GENERAL MANAGER _____
 ASST. GENERAL MANAGER _____

ENCLOSURES: **MR. IN. MSG. RE: EMERGENCY DTD 9/24/73**

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United States Senate

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Herman E. Talbot

U.S.S.

Form #2

DR 6266

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date 10/12/73
Time 11:50

RECEIVED

SEP 27 1973

2163 Shoney Lane
College Park, Georgia

September 24, 1973

Dear ~~SEN. JALMADGE~~ Jalmadge,

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

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

I realize we have a huge energy problem now, but I believe we must find other ways to solve it. To 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 electric gadgets such as electric knives, can openers, baby bottle warmers, etc.

Perhaps not allow any more

2/ private homes to be 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 the 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 terrifying beyond belief if they were sabotaged or bombed; but without these things happening - I read that the nuclear plant in Aliquippa, Pa. has caused an increase in infant mortality, stillbirths and cancer.

In Midland, Pa. 1 1/2 miles downstream from Aliquippa, Pa. death by cancer increased 184% in 4 yrs. compared with an overall rise of 9% in the

3/ 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 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 plant be built, and encourage the closing of others before an accident could happen.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pat Oreszko