

LeeCOLAEISComments Resource

From: Tom Morgan [jtomgolfer@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 9:16 PM
To: LeeCOLAEIS Resource
Subject: 76 FR 79228, Dec 21, 2011

Please consider the following when deliberating on the application for the Lee Nuclear plant in Gaffney, SC:

1) Nuclear Power Is Dangerous: Radiation exposure damages reproductive cells, immune system—causes genetic mutations and cancer, spontaneous abortion, mental retardation, spina bifida, heart disease, leukemia and more. (National Academy of Sciences, BEIR V & VII; World Health Organization) . The truth is.....we all are at risk.....depends on where the water flows and the wind blows. According to the National Academy of Science, there is no safe level of radiation. You cannot taste it, smell it or see it. Health effects can show up 10-30 years later. The so called 10 mile and 50 mile risk area around nuclear plants doesn't hold true to the people and children of Belarus , victims of 1986 Chernobyl fallout who are still suffering debilitating diseases as a result of contamination from 124 miles away. In Japan, Fukushima has sent fallout to Tokyo and Asheville/Hendersonville (where I live) is 3 times closer to Gaffney's proposed nuclear site.

The NRC quotes the research done from the Chernobyl accident where thyroid cancer in children who ate radioactive food supplies OUTSIDE the safety zones was reported. There is also Chernobyl Heart, a genetic disorder in which children in Ukraine are born with holes in their hearts. Is nuclear worth this kind of risk and human suffering?

2) Broad River as water source: Lee Nuclear Plant would use 47 million gallons of water per day with 75% loss through evaporation. Two large cooling lakes, (one is a 3 day back-up) would steam and cool 2 reactors that produce as much heat as 1200 atomic bombs. Even the NRC calls the Broad River "small" and climate changes suggest possible droughts. Shut down could happen due to lack of water for cooling; a very dangerous occurrence. It currently supports a hydropower station, the huge Cliffside coal plant only 16 miles upriver and Summer nuclear plant (1 reactor, 2 more proposed) downstream near Columbia, SC . After use, water is returned to the river as "thermal pollution" (warm water) which stresses fish, other animals living in the area and negatively impacts the surrounding environment. The SC Dept of Natural Resources list the Carolina Fantail Darter fish that lives in the Broad River as "critically imperiled" in South Carolina & warns of "high conservation priority".

3) Historical Money Problems: Price tag for the 2 nuclear reactors has grown from \$11 to \$14 billion. Duke Power wants customers, 70% in NC and 30% in SC, to pay pre-construction costs through rate hikes in addition to taxpayers shouldering the entire financial risk through Federal Loan Guarantees. Another Bail-Out ? Wall Street won't invest because as the Congressional Budget Office says, default rate on loans for new reactors "very high well above 50%". Duke and Progress said their proposed merger was the only way to build more nuclear but the Fed. Govt. has refused the request twice in opposition to such a large monopoly. The estimated start-up date is from 2018 to 2020.

4) Uranium Mining: Uranium fuel is not a renewable or clean source of energy. Miners have been diagnosed with lung diseases, cancer. Uranium mining releases radon from the ground into the atmosphere. Mines and mining waste can release radionuclide, including radon and other pollutants to streams, springs, and other bodies of water.

5) Ubiquitous Nuclear Waste: Storing radioactive waste on-site has contaminated ground water at many reactor sites. After more than 40 years of commercial radioactive waste generation, there is no long term location to keep it safe and contrary to many claims, no way to "recycle" it. Out of 104 US reactor sites, 100 have contaminated soil leading to contaminated ground water. Why will Lee be different? Nuclear waste remains radioactive for millions of years. This is critical to safety planning. There is currently 145 million Tons of waste at 77 US sites.

6) AP1000 Westinghouse Reactor: Rep Ed Markey's statement: "Instead of doing all they should to protect nuclear reactors against seismically-induced ground acceleration, these Commissioners (NRC) voted to approve the acceleration of reactor construction. " "They have fast-tracked construction of a reactor whose shield building could 'shatter like a glass cup' if impacted by an earthquake or other natural or man-made impact". This is a new design, never been built, that is proposed for 14 new reactors in the Southeast.

Achieving results which produce the greatest good for the most citizens takes determination in the face of pressure from many disparate interests.

But this is a real "no-brainer." There is so much on the negative side of this project that approval for this project would be counter-intuitive.

Please don't allow this nuclear plant application to proceed.

Thanks.

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Tom and Barbara Morgan
Hendersonville NC

jtomgolfer@gmail.com
828-242-4131

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