

Testimony of Sky Conard, of the Green River Watershed Alliance, in Polk County, NC (grwa2011@yahoo.com):

We work to protect and plan for our watershed, which is a sub-basin of the Broad River Basin 1.1, that the proposed Duke Energy Lee Nuclear Plant would be a part of also.

I requested from Steve Reid, Section Manager for the Broad River Basin of the Division of Water Resources in North Carolina Department of Environmental Natural Resources (DENR) to provide some statistics for comparison.

As of 2010, the total of just the water supply systems' use piped through the Broad River Basin in all of North Carolina and including Gaffney, South Carolina, was 51 million gallons a day.

I have read that the Lee Nuclear Plant demands will equal or exceed this total in order to operate.

Filling the "Pond C" (a 638 acre, 116 feet deep created reservoir) would require even more water.

Obviously this translates to a huge, inordinate demand of water from the Broad River, which is NOT broad, water that is essential and sustains the region's people and all living things.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 and the Constitution of every state says the people own the fisheries and waterways. Based on the Public Trust Doctrine*, everybody has the right to use the waterways, but nobody can use them in a way that diminishes their use and enjoyment by others. The proposed Lee Nuclear Plant will effectively diminish the public use and resource rights of the Broad River. Is this powerful entity, Duke Energy, actually privatizing our public asset of water? This is a violation of environmental laws.

The region's citizens and our governing agencies who do water supply planning need to strongly reject this flawed proposal that would

- 1) severely diminish the public basin's water supply,
- 2) forever alter this watershed's course and its ecosystem. (I spoke to South Carolina naturalist Pat McMillan who states that the endangered plant species called Rocky Shoals Spider Lily will be negatively impacted because of water flow fluctuation and water quantities. Also endangered is the Carolina Fantail Darter fish.)
- 3) be poised to further drain our water resources by purchasing neighboring established or future water supply systems such as the Broad River Water Authority, the Inman-Campobello Water District, and the proposed Polk County South Water Department.

The surface waters in my backyard are Lake Adger and its supplier, the Green River. These waters need a voice to advocate keeping them just where they are in Polk County, North Carolina, and so that is why I am here today. *CLEAN+*

which then flows INTO the BROAD R.

* Per Robert Kennedy, Jr., Water Keepers Movement