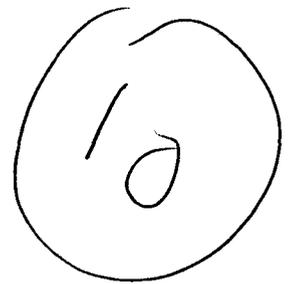


Statement at Public Hearing, Gaffney SC, January 19, 2012



I am strongly opposed to the proposed William States Lee Nuclear Plant. It is my opinion that building the plant poses far too great a risk to the health of citizens of our region. According to the National Academy of Sciences and the World Health Organization, radiation exposure damages reproductive cells and the immune system; it also causes genetic mutations, cancer, spontaneous abortion, mental retardation, spina bifida, heart disease, leukemia and more. The so-called 10 mile and 50 mile risk area around nuclear plants did not hold true for the people of Belarus, victims of 1986 Chernobyl fallout who are still suffering debilitating diseases as a result of contamination from 124 miles away. Gaffney is closer than that to many large population centers, including Charlotte and Asheville, and of course to large rural areas.,

The irony of this proposed toxic nuclear plant is that increased efficiency and downscaling of power usage could render it unnecessary at present. For future needs, I believe that we should develop and build as much green energy, such as wind and solar power, as fast as we can.

Two footnotes here: 1) I believe that the fact that nuclear facilities are too risky to be insured by private insurers means that the U.S. government takes the risk, in other words, the public takes the risk—this in addition to having to pay for its installation in the first place. 2.) According to Alan Noguee, former director of Clean Energy Programs for the Union of Concerned Scientists (in which capacity he served for 12 years), now heading up his own Clean Energy Consulting Firm, in 1973 nuclear energy installations cost c. \$1/watt and solar PV modules cost c. \$100/watt; today, solar PV costs c. \$1/watt to install and nuclear costs about \$6-\$10/watt. So in terms of economics, solar is now more cost effective.

There are many other decisive reasons to stop the proposed plant, including the excessive water usage, the thermal pollution of the Broad River, and the exorbitant cost—not to mention our inability to find safe long-term storage for the radioactive waste.

Please take these considerations seriously as you make your historic decision. Please decide not to build the proposed plant.

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