## LeeCOLAEISComments Resource

**From:** Brian Crissey [Brian@granitepublishing.us]
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 29, 2012 4:14 AM
**To:** LeeCOLAEIS Resource
**Cc:** SarahLopas@nrc.gov
**Subject:** revised public statement for the record
**Attachments:** On Nuclear Power v.2.doc; On Nuclear Power and Better Alternatives.doc

**Importance:** High

Good folks:
I attach a revised edition of my public statement, with a shortened URL for the public petition, so your readers can more easily get involved with the issue.
Thank you!

"Condemnation without investigation is the height of ignorance."
--Albert Einstein

Brian Crissey
1689 Silver Creek Road
Mill Spring NC 28756



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brian Crissey <Brian@granitepublishing.us>
**Date:** February 28, 2012 1:05:28 PM EST
**To:** Lee.COLAEIS@nrc.gov
**Cc:** SarahLopas@nrc.gov
**Subject: public statement for the record**

NRC:

Attached is my written statement to be included in the public record of the 1/19/2012 hearings on the environmental impact of the William States Lee III Nuclear Stations proposed to be built near Gaffney, SC.

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> --Albert Einstein
>
> Brian Crissey
> Mill Spring, NC 28756
>
> 

**Federal Register Notice:** 76FR79228
**Comment Number:** 68

**Mail Envelope Properties** (233CF176-22A3-4171-881D-89DF2A0C0854)

**Subject:** revised public statement for the record
**Sent Date:** 2/29/2012 4:14:14 AM
**Received Date:** 2/29/2012 4:14:38 AM
**From:** Brian Crissey

**Created By:** Brian@granitepublishing.us

**Recipients:**
"SarahLopas@nrc.gov" <SarahLopas@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"LeeCOLAEIS Resource" <LeeCOLAEIS.Resource@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

**Post Office:** granitepublishing.us

| **Files** | **Size** | **Date & Time** |
|---|---|---|
| MESSAGE | 1163 | 2/29/2012 4:14:38 AM |
| On Nuclear Power v.2.doc | 453184 | |
| On Nuclear Power and Better Alternatives.doc | 456256 | |

**Options**
**Priority:** High
**Return Notification:** No
**Reply Requested:** No
**Sensitivity:** Normal
**Expiration Date:**
**Recipients Received:**

# On Nuclear Power and Better Alternatives

Dr. Brian L. Crissey
Mill Spring, NC 28756
January 19, 2011

Restoration Church, Gaffney, SC
Public Hearing on the two-unit 2.3-GW William States Lee III Nuclear Station, to be built near Gaffney, SC.

The cavernous sanctuary was well attended, although not filled. The attendees seemed to generally fall into one of three camps—

- well-dressed spokespeople for Duke Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who focused attention on the safety, efficiency, and positive benefits of the two proposed reactors, provided we assume they are safe,
- suited males from Chambers of Commerce, expressing deep appreciation for the 3,000 construction jobs the plants would bring to this county, whose unemployment rate hovers around 12%, and
- concerned citizens in street clothes, who expressed fears of meltdowns, radiation releases, nuclear waste handling, excessive water consumption, high costs, and missed opportunities to fully explore alternative approaches.

On the surface, it seemed like American democracy in action—citizens being informed and expressing their opinions before a major decision would be made. In truth, the words were without power, the speeches empty. Had the entire assembly voted to stop the project immediately, it would still proceed. Duke Energy was not conducting a binding referendum. It was allowing people to let off steam in an orderly way so as to deflate public opposition. Nothing more.

Two three-hour hearings were scheduled, and the time for public comment was diminished by talkative officials running over. The first citizen to speak was an elderly woman who has been fighting nuclear power so long that the babies she was trying to protect decades ago now have babies of their own. She had hours of material to read, but she could not read well, did not speak clearly, and had trouble fitting into the limited time frame she was given, which was generously extended out of deference to her advanced age, perhaps, until it ate up much of the allotted

time. Bless her heart and her good intentions, but she may have done more harm than good. As other speakers tried to cram their remarks into four-minute allocations, the coherency of the public concern seemed fractured and ineffective. Speakers were asked to contribute their remarks in written form for inclusion in the record. Who will ever read that record was not revealed.

The issue of nuclear power has been debated ever since President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" speech before the U.N. in 1953. Countless arguments have been entered into the public records. If I were to document specific errors in Duke's material—a river-volume flow miscalculation here, or an arithmetic error there—my remarks would be dismissed because I am not the expert—they are—so I must be wrong. If I were to make an emotional appeal on behalf of a safer, more energy-efficient approach to balancing energy supply and demand, I would be called unrealistic. If I proposed picketing with signs, I would be called a dangerous radical, out of step with the need for local employment and future electricity needs. If I ran as a candidate opposed to nuclear power, Duke Energy, as a "person" newly empowered by the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, would outspend any imaginable campaign and install a pro-nuclear candidate of their choosing. Corporations now own the political system.

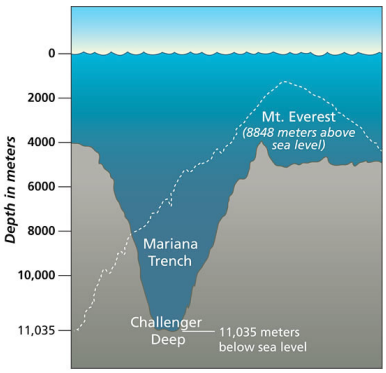
Issues such as nuclear power are so complicated, perhaps intentionally so, that the public feels confused and seems to be excluded from the decision process in any meaningful way. So what could I say here that might make a difference? Perhaps, by addressing just a few clearly understandable, simple concepts, we can create a reasoned perspective on the issue that may serve to advance the public understanding. These issues are employment, need for power, safety, nuclear wastes, and cost.

The two plants expect to hire some 3,000 construction workers over several years and some 1,000 plant workers on a continuing basis. Jobs are needed in a depressed county, but remember that Hitler created jobs making death camps, too, so it is important to examine whether the jobs contribute to the long-term well being of the greater society. It is well documented that a given investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources creates more sustained employment than the same investment in nuclear energy, with a greater impact on the supply-demand balance. If the issues are jobs and need for power, then nuclear is the wrong objective to be pursued.

Nuclear power is said to be safe, but we all remember Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima. If it were safe, then the insurance industry would offer sufficient insurance to cover the possible damages, such as the $235 billion (and rising) damages from Fukushima's four melted reactors. Even cutting the damages in half, to reflect two reactors instead of four, there is $177.5 billion to be covered, but the insurance industry refuses to cover more than $11.6 billion for all nuclear plants in the U.S., which is less than 10% of the potential damages from just this pair of proposed reactors alone. Who would cover the rest, if Fukushima happened here? You and me via another public bailout. This is no time for any large corporation to be proposing another bailout. The public will not stand for it. Without insurance, nuclear power is unsafe. So, if safety is the issue, these plants should not be built.


As a person, "Mr. Duke Energy" must have gone to kindergarten, where he must have learned the primary lesson in life: "We do not leave messes for others to clean up."

Nuclear wastes have been batted around without solution for as long as nuclear power has been around. We can put men on the Moon, but we cannot handle our nuclear wastes safely? It is not that hard. It requires only imagination and money. Nuclear wastes can be solidified into glass cylinders. The cylinders can be encased in concrete, and the concrete can be enclosed in military depleted Uranium from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and formed into great torpedoes. Fins on the back end would cause the torpedo to rifle, and the front end would be formed as a self-tapping screw. These heavy objects could be barged to the Mariana Trench in the Pacific, where moving tectonic plates carry anything buried there towards the center of the Earth over millions of years. Released from the barge, the torpedoes would spin 6.8 miles to the bottom and bury themselves safely for the quarter of a million years that they remain dangerous to living things. Just do it and pay for it.




The nuclear industry needs to stop relying on the U.S. taxpayer to foot its bill for handling nuclear wastes. The time is long overdue for the nuclear industry to stand on its own. Duke can responsibly bury all its nuclear wastes in the Mariana Trench and just pay for it. Be a leader. Whatever it costs to do it right is the cost

that needs to be included, before anyone alleges that nuclear power is cheaper than energy efficiency or solar. Far from being cheap, nuclear power may well be prohibitively expensive, if one develops a reasonable perspective on the issues.

Nuclear power is allegedly a cheap form of electricity, but the playing field is not level. The public is not interested in bailing out an uninsured nuclear accident, so the cost of sufficient insurance needs to be included, which might be about $4 billion annually, if Duke's rates are similar to my fire insurance. If that makes nuclear power too expensive, then Duke should invest in cheaper sources such as energy efficiency and renewables.

Now that the Supreme Court has made corporations into persons, corporations are now subject to the law of the land as persons, like us. Physical assault is the crime by which a person is threatened with bodily harm to the extent that it creates great apprehension in the victim. By planning to build these reactors close to us, "Mr. Duke" is threatening me, my family and loved ones with bodily harm, causing us great apprehension, which is a criminal act. So building these reactors is criminal.

Persons in the U.S. are protected by the U.S. Constitution, which says, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated." At Fukushima, 80,000 people were evacuated from a 20-km zone around the stricken reactors. Their properties were seized and taken from them. Such unreasonable seizures are unconstitutional in the U.S. But "Mr. Duke," plans to build two reactors without sufficient insurance and without a political mandate for a bailout. If a Fukushima disaster were to strike this site, many persons would find their properties unreasonably seized. So building these reactors is unconstitutional.

In summary, nuclear energy is promoted on the issues of employment, need for power, safety, and cost. But energy efficiency and renewable energy create more sustainable jobs per dollar of investment than does nuclear. We are told that the proposed reactors are needed for future growth, but the same investment in energy efficiency and renewables will have a greater impact on the energy supply and demand balance. We are told that nuclear power is safe, but without sufficient insurance, it is much more dangerous than energy efficiency and renewables. When insurance and responsible waste management are

factored in, nuclear power is most likely to be prohibitively expensive. And now we see that it is also criminal and unconstitutional.

So, "Mr. Duke," don't do the crime. Keep electricity rates low, employ more people, and be safer. Drop the nuclear option and invest in energy efficiency and renewables.


It seemed like a minor story at the time, but one young part-time nanny, Molly Katchpole, who was only just getting by, was pushed over the edge by Bank of America's $5 per month debit-card fee. She formed an online petition, gathered an extraordinary number of signatures and forced BOA to rescind the fee. A "Bank Transfer Day" followed, and credit unions gained 650,000 new accounts and $4.5 billion in new deposits. A fuse was lit.

The second largest bank in the world, after J.P. Morgan Chase, is Bank of America, the great elephant, with $570 billion in assets, but it was clearly scared of a young woman. People power scared the giant beast. At the tail end of 2011, it happened again. Molly wrote,

"Verizon thinks it can do anything to its customers, and that we're powerless to stop it. (Spoiler alert: We're not.) By the way, I found out that a recent report says Verizon paid zero federal income tax from 2008-2010, and actually got almost a billion dollars in rebates from taxpayers. So they definitely shouldn't be nickel and diming us. As a Verizon customer, I've started a new Change.org petition demanding that the phone company drop the fee for paying bills online. I'd be grateful if you signed it."

Within two days, more than 150,000 signed the petition. While it took months of hard work to get Bank of America to drop its $5 debit card fee, Verizon backed down in less than 24 hours. It seems that the people are getting more powerful by the day.

So, if you do not abandon your plans to build the William States Lee III Nuclear Station by December 1, 2012, I will not pay my December electric bill.

But I don't expect you to listen to me, "Mr. Duke," for I have no power. But if 1,000,000 other ratepayers of yours also sign on to this petition and agree to not pay their December electric bills, then collectively we have great power, for you would be put into a severe and immediate financial crunch.

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You will be in serious financial difficulty before you can punish us all. You don't need to fall victim to the Molly Katchpole Effect. You can just do the right thing. So back off the new nuclear plants while you still have time. Don't test us.

A petition titled "Duke Energy and Progress Energy: Abandon new nukes, or we pay no electric bills in Dec., if 1,000,000 sign." is online now, quietly gathering signatures, growing exponentially. See http://tinyurl.com/7syv5z8

Thank you for the opportunity to give you a heads-up.

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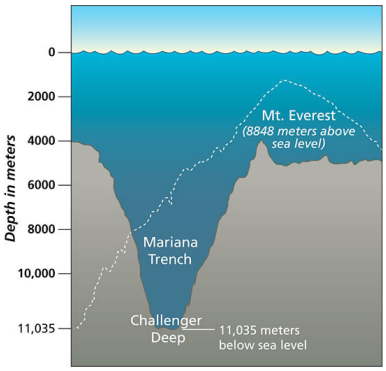


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