

Wright, Darlene

From: Becky Rafter <becky@georgiawand.org>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2013 6:15 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource; Woollen, Mary
Cc: Courtney Hanson
Subject: NRC waste confidence meeting request for Atlanta
Attachments: Georgia WAND Ltr for Rep Lewis.pdf; Georgia WAND Ltr for Rep Johnson.pdf

Greetings Chairwoman Macfarlane,

Hope you have had a great summer. Please see the attached letters that have been sent to Georgia Congressmen John Lewis and Hank Johnson asking that they intervene on our behalf to request the NRC to schedule a waste confidence hearing in Atlanta. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity for a public meeting in a state where two of the country's first new nuclear reactors are being built. We still have great concerns around the licensing and safety issues.

Thank you,
Becky

Becky D. Rafter, MPA // Executive Director // Georgia WAND // 404.524.5999 // www.georgiawand.org



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September 13, 2013

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The Honorable John Lewis
343 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **TIME-SENSITIVE** -- assistance in getting NRC to hold waste confidence meeting in Atlanta

Greetings Congressman Lewis:

We hope that this letter finds you well. Thank you for considering Georgia WAND and our requests in the past, and we hope you are able to support us with this need as well.

We write to ask your assistance in getting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to hold one of its upcoming waste confidence hearings in Atlanta in late September/early October.

Since the courts ruled a little more than a year ago that NRC had not satisfactorily studied the issue of radioactive waste storage at reactor sites sufficiently to make a reliable and competent statement that onsite waste storage could be deemed "safe" final disposal, the NRC has been prohibited from issuing new reactor licenses and granting license extensions to existing reactors. Until the waste confidence rule is rewritten to meet the court standards, this condition will persist.

To satisfy the court's ruling, NRC embarked on a process, which is now reaching its culmination in a series of public hearings around the U.S. to obtain public input on this issue. **To our outrage, NRC has not scheduled a meeting in the state with that is currently home to two of the country's first new nuclear reactors (Plant Vogtle) in 30 years.** Meetings being held in the southeast will be in Charlotte, NC and Orlando, FL, not Atlanta.

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It is important to ensure that NRC officials meet in as close proximity as possible with the industry it regulates; especially in regards to the new reactors that are being built in Georgia given the multitude of problems they have had with construction. It is up to us to ensure that the NRC takes in valuable input from the public, including community residents who live near the reactors, during their decision-making processes and that the NRC is held accountable to fulfill its role in providing transparency of the process and reliable regulator of the nuclear industry. And hosting a meeting in Atlanta is a strong step in that direction.

Recently we held a meeting with NRC chairwoman Allison Macfarlane and NRC staff in Augusta, GA to address our concerns about moving forward with reactors 3 and 4. The meeting, in which we included other concerned organizations and members of the affected community, was effective. But it is necessary to have a public meeting on the waste confidence rule in Atlanta where the regional offices are held and from which the NRC regulates nuclear reactors in the Southeast.

We ask that you directly and publicly intervene to secure a public hearing in Atlanta on the waste confidence rule in late September/early October. Your immediate intervention is greatly desired.

Staff

Becky D. Rafter, MPA
Executive Director

Amanda Hill-Attkisson
Director of Programs

Courtney Hanson
Director of Organizing and Communication

Emilia Kaiser
Development and Program Associate

We eagerly await your time-sensitive reply.

Gratefully,

Becky Rafter, Executive Director

Cc: Allison Macfarlane, Chairwoman, U.S. NRC

Georgia Women's Action for New Directions

250 Georgia Ave, Suite 202, Atlanta, GA 30312 | Phone: (404)524-5999 | www.georgiawand.org



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Congressman Hank Johnson
2240 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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