

ClinchRiverESPEISCEm Resource

From: Richard McDonald <desertoceandreamer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9:52 PM
To: ClinchRiverESPEIS
Subject: [External_Sender] Public Comment - Clinch River DEIS (Docket 52-047)

Dear NRC staff,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed siting of experimental Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) at the Clinch River site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is seeking an early site permit (ESP) to construct two or more reactors, with up to 800 megawatts (MW) of electricity generation capacity. Frankly, THIS is NOT what we need to be doing (spending money on DANGEROUS... potentially making a large part of the area for miles and miles around the reactors UNINHABITABLE, if something went wrong, as it already has 3 major times, in the history of nuclear reactors. The THIRD one... Fukushima, in Japan, CONTINUES TO LEAK radioactive waste water into the Pacific ocean, and radioactivity has been measured in the waters off Alaska, and along the Western shores of the U.S.. WE the PEOPLE, do NOT want you to build ANY MORE nuclear reactors, because using radioactive materials (after they have been mined from mines which pollute our waters with cancer-causing elements... the waste piles in Moab Utah, (left over from the first big nuclear arms race, is just now starting to be cleaned up... and I suggest you build ZERO more reactors ever, because solar hot water heat, in DECENTRALIZED, home systems... along with a photovolataic array, can provide all the heat and power Americans need, WITHOUT using ANY radioactive materials... (which the government seems hell-bent on making into weapons, (either nuclear weapons, OR... the totally erroneously-named "depleted Uranium used to make armor-piercing, tank shells... (AND which leave radioactive waste, wherever they have been used (which also cause human birth defects.) No, there is NO PLACE for ANY MORE Nuclear-ANYTHING in this world ! After all the open-air testing at Bikini atoll, and in Nevada.... thousands of people eventually formed cancer. Many Native Americans now live on land near Uranium mines in Arizona, which is polluted by Uranium which has leached into water supplies, streams and lakes. THIS SHIT NEEDS TO STOP ~ !! I recommend that the NRC does NOT give licensure to build and run these proposed plants in Tennessee .

NRC issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for TVA's permit application on April 26, 2018. NRC's analysis is deeply flawed and biased toward approving this unnecessary, expensive, and counterproductive project.

NRC must reject TVA's proposal to dramatically reduce the Emergency Planning Zone from 10 miles to just 2 miles or less. The EPZ requirement defines the scope of evacuation plans and other emergency response measures must be in place in the case of a major release of radioactive material. There is no possible justification for reducing emergency planning requirements on the basis of reactor designs that have not even been approved.

The reality is that TVA's proposed SMR project is a thinly disguised subsidy to the nuclear power industry. TVA has no need to build more nuclear reactors, with a surplus of electricity and declining demand from its customers. The proposed project would be entirely uneconomical, with estimated costs 3-5 times more than the current cost of wind and solar power. Energy efficiency is yet more cost-effective.

NRC must consider the recent experience with other proposed new reactor projects, using untested new designs. South Carolina utilities abandoned building new reactors last year, but only after spending nearly a decade and \$9 billion on them. South Carolina ratepayers are paying 18% of their electricity costs for partially built reactors that will never generate a watt of electricity. Had the utilities invested in solar, wind, and/or efficiency ten years ago, South Carolina would be saving money and reducing carbon emissions, with no radioactive waste.

These and other biases in the DEIS amount to promoting nuclear power over other energy sources. This is contrary to NRC's statutory mission to be a neutral regulator with the purpose of ensuring nuclear safety, not promoting nuclear power. NRC must withdraw the DEIS and perform a fair, accurate, objective analysis of TVA's site permit application, as well as the real alternatives of energy efficiency, wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources.

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