

March 28
Jones, AL

PDR

70-2909

E. Y. Shum
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555



Mr. Shum,

I am writing about the proposed Westinghouse fuel pellet plant. There are several things I think should be considered by the NRC.

- (1) Why do the companies build so many plants like this in the Southeast? Tax advantages? Why don't they build them in sparsely populated areas such as Nevada and Utah². These states have already been polluted by nuclear tests anyway (Ha, Ha) and the uranium is mined out there too.
- (2) Why doesn't Westinghouse just enlarge their Columbia, SC, plant?
- (3) I understand that company paid employees will monitor compliance to safety standards. Do they expect the public to believe that they would blow the whistle on their employers if violations were found? Remember Karen Silkwood?
- (4) Even government agencies permit companies to carry out questionable operations, such as the release of radioactive gas at TMI.

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(5) Last year, a section of the railroad bridge across the Alabama River fell in while a train was crossing.

(About the only materials that fell in the river were cotton bales and cottonseed.) And there is the one-lane highway bridge on US 31 south between Prattville and Montgomery. The Prattville-Montgomery area is expected to increase considerably in population during the next few years. Can the public really be protected from accidents that could occur during the transportation of UF_6 and enriched U pallets?

(6) What would happen at the proposed plant during a "large flood" (a river level that is reached only one year in every 40 or 50)?

(7) What is the danger to the surrounding farm land from normal and accidental emissions of lead, fluorides, nickel, etc.?

(8) Does Westinghouse consider "postulated accidents" in the same way that Ford Motor Company did with the Pinto - company profits vs. projected injuries and deaths?

People can't avoid some hazards - UV radiation from the sun, the drunk driver who runs a red light, etc. But why should a small group of people subject an entire area to potential catastrophe?

This goes for this and other nuclear establishments. Thank you.

Eddie Vasser