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1000 Adams Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 701  
March 5, 1986

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20545

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

On February 28th, I attended an EPA hearing on Louisiana Power and Light's application for a water pollutant discharge permit for its nuclear power plant Waterford III, on the Mississippi some 24 miles north of New Orleans (Permit no, LA0007374).

It is likely that this permit will be granted, since all the objections raised by the participants in the hearing dealt with the one issue which EPA will not consider, the radioactive pollution which may result from this discharge.

Waterford III will not use cooling towers. It will use the Mississippi River instead. The Mississippi River provides the drinking water for the communities south of the plant, involving some one-and-a-half million people. Louisiana Power and Light has no contingency plan for an accident which would contaminate this drinking water, New Orleans is generally considered impossible to evacuate due to its geographical location and the limited number of exits from the city. Furthermore, under interpretation of the Clean Air (or Water) Act, Waterford III is considered an old source, exempt from the need for an Environmental Impact Statement.

So far, the impacts of a discharge of radioactive materials into the water due to accidents at the plant, or to accident during transport of spent fuel have never been studied. We fear that once the EPA discharge permit is granted, the NRC will use the existence of this permit to prevent further discussion of water pollution. The plant could thus go on-line without the risks ever being evaluated.

You have the responsibility to protect the health of the public. So has EPA, but in this case, it passes the buck to your agency. Please see to it that all the risks and dangers are evaluated before a permit is granted, and that a permit be denied if those risks are too high, as I believe them to be.

Those of us who must drink and use the contamination produced by this plant for the rest of our lives have a right to voice our objections and be heard. So far, this right has been denied us.

Sincerely,

*Anna K. Plessonton*

Anna K. Plessonton, PhD