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September 3, 1991

Mr. Charles J. Haughney  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Div. of Ind. & Med. Nuc. Safety  
Office of Nuc. Mat. Safety & Safeguards  
U. S. Nuc. Reg. Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Haughney:

As a citizen of Claiborne Parish and also as Chairperson of the Claiborne Parish Tourist Commission, I, along with 17 other parish residents, went to Oconee County, South Carolina on August 7-9, 1991, as guests of Louisiana Energy Services. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint us with Duke's Oconee Nuclear Station in order to give us an overview of the commercial nuclear industry which in turn would help us put the proposed Claiborne Enrichment Center in perspective.

Speaking strictly as a layperson, I was very impressed with the whole Oconee facility; its safety measures were awesome, as were the emergency preparedness procedures. Also, Duke's involvement with neighboring communities' fire departments, disaster units, and hospitals was very impressive.

By visiting in the communities surrounding the plant we had the chance to see how well the plant and communities have adjusted to each other. Having expressed an interest in tourism, I was given the opportunity to visit the historic town of Pendleton and interview Mr. Hurley Badders, Director, Pendleton District Historical and Recreational Commission. Mr. Badders was quite emphatic in the praise that he gave to the Oconee Station, stating frankly that the plant had done nothing to hurt tourism but had done much to stimulate the economy in the area. As a concerned Claibornite, I spoke also to Pendleton shop owners and their customers trying to find someone with a negative attitude toward the nuclear plant, honestly I could not find anyone who did so.

Because my husband, Rep. Kenneth Valentine, and I own a dairy farm, I also expressed an interest in the agricultural community; so LES made arrangements for me to visit the Orr dairy farm located in a near proximity to the nuclear station. I was pleased to learn from the owners that Duke officials had the milk sampled on a weekly basis and that no contamination from radiation had ever been found, nor had any livestock been born with deformities which might be traced to radiation.

I toured further into the rural communities and spoke with persons that I met at a country grocery store similar to country stores in my parish. They commented positively about the Oconee Station; Mrs. Christine Burgess, the store-keeper was very definite in her praise.

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Both my husband and I love Claiborne Parish where our roots run deep and have hopes that it will be a place where our children and grandchildren will be able to live and find employment. Never would I support anything that would be detrimental to them or their well-being.

However, I cannot help but think that certain fears and questions raised by the "Citizens Against Nuclear Trash" organization have been blown well out of proportion as compared to actuality. I certainly understand and sympathize with some of their issues, but our economy certainly needs the re-vitalization that the Claiborne Enrichment Plant could provide.

I went on the trip to South Carolina with a very open, questioning frame of mind and came home with conclusion that the Oconee Nuclear Station did much to develop their area and stimulate the economy. Wouldn't the Claiborne Enrichment Plant do the same for ours?

Respectfully,

*Beverly Valentine*  
Beverly Valentine

cc: Ms. Mary Boyd