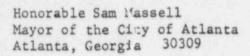


# ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

MAY 2 1973

. Docket No. 50-160



Dear Mayor Massell:

Your letter dated January 12, 1973, requested that we review your comments and provide you with assurance that the proposed power increase to the Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) is safe and poses no danger to the residents of Atlanta.

We have deferred the issuance of the Georgia Tech construction permit during our review of your comments. Our review has been completed and we conclude, in agreement with our previous Safety Evaluation Report, that the proposed power increase at Georgia Tech does not present significant hazards not described or implicit in the Safety Analysis Report and that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the manner proposed.

It should be pointed out that the issues raised by Dr. Bollinger, Ar. Nader, and the Union of Concerned Scientists are related specifically to the siting of large nuclear power reactors. The main thrust of their contentions relates to their concern that the nuclear power plants presently being proposed, in the 3000 megawatt range, are too large and that a rapid escalation in the size of nuclear power plants does not allow for a slow and deliberate assessment of the performance and potential ecological impact of these plants. These concerns are not relevant to the operation of the Georgia Tech Research Reactor. In contrast to these 3000 megawatt nuclear power plants, the GTRR will operate at 5 megawatts and does not contain the quantity of fuel or fission products that are present in a large power reactor nor does it operate at the high temperature and pressure conditions of a nuclear power plant.

In addition, we must emphasize that the GTRR has been operating safely since 1964 at its present power level and that the proposed power level increase is not experimental in nature, but rather is a pre-planned

. . .

phase of the growth of this facility. Two other research reactors which are almost identical to the GTRR have followed the same general program of lower power operation followed by power increases to the 5 megawatt level and have been operated successfully at 5 megawatts for a total of 20 years.

In specific response to the concerns expressed by Drs. Long and Bollinger which relate respectively to the potential seismicity in the area and to the need to establish seismic risk and zoning areas for the siting of nuclear power plants, we would like to assure you that the Atomic Energy Commission has indeed evaluated such risks and has established stringent criteria which assure that nuclear power reactors are capable of withstanding the most severe seismic event which is believed to be possible at the site.

The seismic resistance of the GTRR containment building has been evaluated using analytical methods similar to those described in AEC Technical Information Document TID 7024, "Nuclear Reactors and Earthquakes". The analysis indicates that the containment structure will withstand maximum accelerations in the range of 0.07 g to 0.15 g associated with the occurrence of an earthquake rated at intensity 7 on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.

The Seismic Risk Map of the United States Building Code places Atlanta at the outer edge of Zone 2 and recommends that structures built within this zone be capable of withstanding an earthquake of intensity 7. The Georgia Tech Research Reactor containment building meets this recommendation. The analysis also shows that the seismic resistance of this structure is equivalent to the value used by the Corps of Engineers in the construction of dams within Seismic Risk Zone 2.

We hope that this information provides you with sufficient assurance that the operation of the Georgia Tech Research Reactor in the manner proposed will not result in a hazard to the citizens of Atlanta as we have concluded from our evaluation. Please feel free to contact us if you desire any further information.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Skovholt

Assistant Director for

Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing

#### PETITION

TO

# THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND

THE AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY
(A DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE/
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES)

We, the undersigned, support Pamela Blockey-O'Brien's "Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 C.F.R. 2.206 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Oct. 3, 1994" (U.S. N.R.C. Docket 50-160) calling for:

- (a) License revocation and shutdown of the Neely Nuclear Research Reactor and support facilities and removal of all radio-active contamination and materials. The reactor is on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in downtown Atlanta, near housing for the poor and adjacent to where 10,000 Clympic athletes/visitors will be housed. It is on unstable ground, has no real containment dome, is in an earthquake zone, has contaminated surrounding soil, vegetation and sewer systems, vents radiation to the air and has a history of problems. Approximately 400,000 Curies of (radioactive) Cobalt-60 are also stored on site and approximately 6,000 Curies of Cesium-137 are stored under the floor of a nearby building.
- (b) License withdrawal NATIONWIDE involving the discharging or dumping of ANY quantity of radioactive material to all sewers or waters of the United States or oceans of the world.
- (c) License withdrawal from ALL nuclear facilities, including nuclear power plants, nationwide, which operate under "As Low As Reasonably Achievable" ("ALARA") principles.

_Name	Address(Optional)	Town/State/Zipcode (Needed)
William R. Stein	388 Richards St. NW.	Atlanta 6A 30318-7924
2 John H. Gallon	144 25685 Ga. Ted Statio	n Atlanta (7A 30332
3 Scott Garrison	1216 Barnes STNW	n Atlanta (7A 30332 Atlanta GA 30318
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

### Reasons for Supporting the PETITION:

### (a) To the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Contrary to popular belief, the entire nuclear fuel cycle--from mining of uranium to transportation of nuclear materials, to manufacture of nuclear weapons/projectiles/so-called "depleted uranium" armor piercing munitions, to nuclear power plant and nuclear research reactors--Defiemit DEADLY RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINANTS TO AIR, SOIL, VEGETATION AND WATER. Further, under "ALARA" principles, one is allowed to release radioactive contaminants to the environment as long as the releases are kept As Low As Reasonably Achievable, i.e., ALARA, depending upon what one wants to spend on containing releases, what available equipment one has and such. In other words, ALARA puts economics above concern for health and the environment. Due to the nature of radiation, such releases under ALARA permit illness, contamination and deaths. The only way to avoid these deaths--which medical nuclear expert Dr. John Gofman calls "planned deaths"--is to have ZERO releases.

THERE IS NO "SAFE" LEVEL OF RADIATION, whether naturally occurring or human made. The so-called "permissible" and "allowable" doses/limits/guidelines/standards are hogwash. They grew out of recommendations made in 1950 by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The ICRP itself had accepted standards agreed upon by nuclear physicists from the Manhatten Project (WWII atomic bomb project) even those these physicists had NO health credentials. Although the ICRP has issued some updates, it persists in the basic views/recommendations "to allow reasonable latitude for the expansion of atomic energy programs"--not to protect health.

Even the NRC admitted in 1978 that there is NO safe level of exposure, a fact that had been known for years. The effects of radiation are cumulative. Any exposure constitutes a threat as ionizing radiation seriously disrupts the chemistry of the cell, leading to later events we may see as lymphoma, leukemia, breast or lung cancer, asthma, spontaneous abortion, heart problems, deformed offspring, sterility, ovarian/reproductive problems, thyroid problems, or death.

Workers in nuclear industries are allowed to be exposed to even higher levels of radiation than the current appalling levels allowed for the general public. Furthermore, as soon as they enter the workplace, such workers are not considered to be "members of the public" anymore by the NRC and industry, so less protection is given.

The deadly effects of Cobalt-60 and Cesium-137 are well known. Cobalt-60's effects on DNA at low exposure are horrendous, let alone the fact that exposure to Co-60 and Ce-137 can kill outright.

Radiation cannot be rendered harmless. It has to decay to its stable state which may take millions of years. Even though many people think that when a radioactive substance has reached its half-life, everything is fine, the term "half-life" is a useless

phrase when it comes to safety. It takes 10 to 20 half-lives, on the average, for something to go through the various stages of radioactive decay to become stable/harmless. A pound of Cesium-137 (with a half-life of approximately 30 years), for example, would only decay to 1/2 pound at the end of 30 years; at the end of 30 more years, 1/4 pound; at the end of yet another 30 years, 1/8 pound, etc.

When radioactive contaminants are dumped to sewers, they wind up often eventually wind up in drinking water, having contaminated sewer lines, treatment plants, sewage sludges and creeks/rivers en route to drinking water intake plants. The result is a major public health problem in which people are exposed daily to yet another cumulative dose of radiation.

(b) To the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

As guardian of the public's health, ATSDR MUST INTERVENE and insure that the requests in this petition to NRC are honored and implemented.

While not much can be done about naturally occurring background radiation to which we are all exposed and which in turn causes health problems, aging, etc., ZERO exposure to radiation from all man-made/induced activities is a must. The latter source of exposure can be eliminated to a great extent.

#### (c) In General

U.S. nuclear guidelines are generally adopted/followed worldwide. Stupidity on this issue has already spread because the press and public generally bought into all the hogwash, believed they were being protected and asked few questions. Above and below ground (with vents) nuclear testing by the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and others have saturated much of this earth with fallout, causing approximately 6 million cancer deaths worldwide by 1963 (when above ground tests stopped). These cancer deaths would not have otherwise occurred according to former Soviet dissident/nuclear scientist Andrei Sakarov. Millions more have died since.

We do not need any additional exposure. Remember, <u>radiation</u> is unsafe at any level. (Suggested reading: <u>No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth</u> by Dr. Rosalie Bertell.)

Thank you for your support of this petition. Please distribute unsigned copies of it to friends (by mail, fax, on Internet) and then make three copies of your completed petition (all 3 pages) and mail to:

(1) The Executive Director, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

(2) Petitioned Health Assessment Co-ordinator, John Steward, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1600 Clifton Rd., N.E. (E-28), Atlanta, Georgia 30333

(3) Pamela Blockey-O'Brien, I.F.O.R., c/o D23 Golden Valley, Douglasville, Georgia 30134.

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1995

Mr. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien D-23 Golden Valley Douglasville, Georgia 30134

Dear Mr. Blockey-O'Brien:

Thank you so much for your letter. President Clinton greatly appreciates the trust and confidence you have shown in him by writing.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I am forwarding your letter to the Department of Energy for review and any appropriate action. Please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the issues you have raised. Should you wish to contact the Department of Energy directly, you may write to: Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

Many thanks for your patience.

Sincerely,

James A. Dorskind

Special Assistant to the President Director of Correspondence and

Presidential Messages



## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 17, 1995

Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien D23 Golden Valley Douglasville, GA 30134

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

As you know, the White House referred your June 27 letter to President Clinton to the Department of Energy which, in turn, referred it to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission where it was received in this office on July 14. Since your concerns also are the subject of a "2.206 Petition" currently pending before the staff as well as a public hearing being conducted by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on Georgia Institute of Technology's application to renew the operating license for its research reactor, it would be inappropriate for this office to reply in detail to your letter. Accordingly, by copy of this letter, I am asking the Docketing and Service Branch in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission to distribute copies of your letter to the Georgia Institute of Technology service list, Docket No. 50-160-Ren.

Sincerely,

Frank I Ingram

Frank L.Ingram Assistant to the Director Office of Public Affairs

cc: Emile Julian, D&S, SECY, w/incoming

ENTION: AGENCY LIASON FAXED

URGENT

President Clinton The White House, Washington, D.C.20500



PAMELA BLOCKEY-O'BRIEN D23 Golden Valley, Douglasville, GA 30134

Tel: 404-949-9342 after 12 noon. May 12th, 1995

Dear President Clinton,

This is with regard to my letter to you of April 19th, 1995 concerning the Neely Nuclear Research Reactor on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology now surrounded with Olympic housing for 10,000 and Olympic venues, a prime target for terrorism.

Please read my April 19th letter and have your staff get a copy of my "2.206 Petition to the NRC" from the Executive Director of the NRC in Washington.

My 2.206 petition is many pages of pleadings.

This is an extremely dangerous situation. Apart from the fact that the reactor is old, on unstable ground, in an earthquake zone etc. (see my 2.206 Petition) there are hundreds of thousands of curies of Cobalt-60 and thousands of curies of Cesium-137 which are part of the complex. You need to issue an EXECUTIVE ORDER to get the following done as fast as humanly possible :

1) the DOE owns the highly enriched reactor fuel and there are spent fuel rods, (among the most radioactive things on earth) there it all should be removed. 2) Georgia Tech owns the Cobalt-60 and the Cesium-137, but it is liscensed to be there by the State of Georgias Radiation Surveillance program. The Governor of the State of Georgia should be ordered to get it all out to a DOE facility already a "National Sacrifice Area" such as the Savannah River Nuclear Facility (that 300 square miles of contamination) or Oak Ridge, equally contaminated. The person with the State who has liscensed the cobalt and cesium is not a health professional specializing in the medical effects of radiation, or even a nuclear engineer. In fact, the Radiation Surveillance Division has , I understand only one nuclear engineer and no aforementioned health professionals. job is to monitor for radiation. They are underfunded and understaffed. 3) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission liscences the reactor. They should be ordered to cancel the liscense and order the facility shut down, cleaned up, and all radioactive sources etc. including the highly enriched bomb-grade uranium there to

be removed. The reactor has long been an environmental disaster waiting to happen. There is no way that Atlanta could be evacuated now, due to accident or terrorist attack, let alone during the Olympic Games. Even the threat of an attack would cause panic and the United States would suffer grave embarressment. People could be injured in stampedes to leave the city. Even if one placed the entire US Army around the reactor, as I have tried to explain to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a mortar attack, or other attack from a distance using those terrible so-called "Depleted Uranium" -DU tipped projectiles, which in fact give off radioactive, toxic dust (which is well documented, as happened in the Gulf War where all sides used them) and which can penetrate just about anything, including steel and cement. The reactor should never have been placed in such an area to begin with, it has long threatened the students, the housing for the poor nearby and the City, The facility has had numerous problems also. It is the second largest university research reactor in the country. Such reactors should not be in highly populated areas.

I beg you to issue an Executive Order now. It will take time to do all this, and you must see that only the most highly qualified radiological health specialists and nuclear engineers and safety teams are employed to do it.

Mr. David Arnold, Director of Media Relations/ Public Information, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. 30332-0181

May 3rd, 1995

Dear Mr. Arnold,

Here, as promised, is what I would like you to send me, in writing, for your records:

I would like to know the monetary amounts, (all sources including grants) the Neely Nuclear Research Reactor recieved in the past ten years from the Dept. of Energy, The Army, Navy, Airforce, Pentagon in general (Dept. of Defense), Savannah River Nuclear Facility (now called SRS), Westinghouse and DUpont who operate/operated the Savannah River Nuclear Facility, Georgia Power, Duke Power, TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority), INEL, Emory, Space Research e.g. NASA, nuclear materials/power plant coatings i.e. companies who maintain nuclear plants, military research and development including civilian companies like Lockheed, the National Science Foundation, and any monies, grants etc from international sources such as Technical University in Munich, Germany, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, Great Britain; the Australian government and or universities like Australian National University (ANU) at Canberrra, and the South African Government and Universities such as the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and the Research complex at Pelindaba. Also any monies from Oak Ridge, Tenn. and Lawrence Livermore and Argonne National Lab., the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, University of Virginia, and the SOuthern COmpany, Matrix Churchill, WSGI, Southwire, Young Refining Corp. and GE.

I realize this is a long list. This was the entire list I was going to give when I was called back (I had been told by someone other than yourself). I would also like the same information for the year 1974. I would also like to know how much money Chem-Nuclear Services of Barnwell, SC has either given, or recieved in contraction for nuclear waste disposal from Neely, some of which may be listed under Chemical Waste Management.

On a separate issue we did not discuss, I would like to know where the radioact: waste from Neely went prior to its current nuclear waste contractor. i.e. who picked it and where it went from 1964 onwards. I have been told it currently goes to Barnwell,SC. i.e. minus the stuff thats dumped to the sewers. They are meant to keep records of that sort of thing.

I would als o like to know what amount of money was spent on doing research on animals at Neely/cost of aquiring animals and who the research was done for, back to 1964 until now.

Last, I would like to know how much Georgia EPD/DNR/Radiation Surveillance program has given to Georgia Tech/Neely under the contract arrangements they have with Tech/Neely for services etc.and anything else.for the last ten years.

I would like to thank you for the time and effort involved in putting the

together my request .

Sincerely,

The Head of the NRC, Mr. Taylor, US NRC, Washington, DC 20555

May 18th, 1995

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Nuclear Regulatory Commission on a host of serious issues. I keep writing and ars (a copy of my most recent letter is enclosed) and I feel like I am up against a brick wall. Actually, I might have more luck with a brick wall, at this rate. I have clearly shown the hazards to human health and the environment /safety or according to what I have read and I believe NRC is required under the Atomic Energy to my petition by NRC even though I asked, and only just found out how I might be able Atomic Energy Act the NRC is responsible for ensuring that the use of nuclear materials clearly shows many risks. Please let me know your decision quickly, it is all very important.

Thank you,

Pamela Blockey-O'Brien.

Famers Bleckey - Consum



## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 6, 1995

Mr. and Mrs. Louis K. Davis 1478 Cambridge Common Decatur, Georgia 30030-2041

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Davis:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your undated transmittal that indicated your support for the 10 CFR 2.206 petition from Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien related to the Georgia Tech Research Reactor. Let me assure you that the concerns raised in the 2.206 petition will be appropriately evaluated. We appreciate your bringing these concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Grimes, Director Division of Project Support

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-160



### UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 29, 1995

Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien D23 Golden Valley Douglasville, Georgia 30134

> Re: Director's Decision DD-95-15, Docket No. 50-160 (2.206)

Dear Ms. Blockey-O'Brien:

This is to inform you that the time provided by NRC regulation within which the Commission may act to review the Director's Decision (DD-95-15) in this docket has expired. Chairman Jackson, under delegated authority, as authorized by NRC Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980, after consultation with Commissioner Rogers allowed the review time to expire. Commissioner Rogers had stated his agreement with this decision. Accordingly, DD-95-15 became final agency action on August 25, 1995.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Bates

(Condrer ) Buter

Acting Secretary of the Commission

cc: Service List

What a fance — Did they even read it are?