

Do we want a radioactive world? We have a choice. It's time to make it!

GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY (GANE) · P.O. BOX 8574, STATION F · ATLANTA, GA. 30306



The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
October 31, 1978

Gentlemen:

In view of the fact that Georgia Power Company has now admitted that it has generating capacity far in excess of peak demand and has also admitted that its projections as to the future growth in demand for electricity were much greater than the growth now expected and in view of the fact that a construction permit was granted to Georgia Power based on its erroneous representations as to the need for generating capacity, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy (GANE) calls upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend the construction permit for the two Vogtle units and to hold hearings to determine whether there is a need for the Vogtle units in view of the new evidence concerning lower growth and cheaper alternatives.

Your statement of GANE is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Grossman

Mike Grossman, Coordinator
Georgians Against Nuclear Energy

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STATEMENT OF GEORGIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY (GANE)
CONCERNING CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS VOGTLE
AND PROPOSED SALE OF PORTIONS OF PLANTS SCHERER

date 10/30/78

The Georgia Power Company is proposing to sell portions of the under-construction coal-fired power plants (the Scherer plants) to out-of-state utilities (Gulf Power Company and Mississippi Power Company) at prices below what the company is paying to build the plants while continuing to construct two nuclear power plants (the Vogtle plants) at more than twice the cost per kilowatt of capacity that Scherer is to be sold at. This is an outrage to the consumers of electricity produced by Georgia Power Company, to all citizens of the State of Georgia, and to any fair-minded person who will look at the facts.

According to a letter sent to the Florida Public Service Commission by Gulf Power Company, Gulf has been offered a share in the Scherer plants for less than \$600 per kilowatt, and Mississippi Power Company has been offered a similar deal. Georgia Power Company estimates, on the other hand, that construction will actually cost more than \$700 per kilowatt, so the difference would be paid by Georgia Power consumers for electricity they will never use. Meanwhile, Georgia Power Company continues to build the Vogtle Plants near Waynesboro, Ga. at an understated estimate of \$1346 per kilowatt for Vogtle 1 and nearly \$1000 per kilowatt for Vogtle 2. The company claims that Georgia consumers need the electricity, so they're building dangerous and expensive nuclear plants, but they are seeking to sell coal-fired plants at a loss because, according to the Gulf Power letter, they overestimated the need for electricity in the mid-1980s (when both

the Scherer and the Vogtle plants are scheduled to begin operation). Additionally, Georgia Power Company has estimated in an official company press release that solar photovoltaics for production of electricity will cost between \$500 and \$1000 per kilowatt in the mid-1980s--cheaper capital costs than the nuclear plants with absolutely no fuel costs and far less maintenance cost than the nuclear facility. Such facts demonstrate once again that important decisions on energy should not be left to companies such as Georgia Power who show time and again that their decisions are based on profit to the company, not what is best for the consumer.

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted Georgia Power Company a permit to construct the two units at Vogtle based on the company's projections of growth in demand for electricity in Georgia. The company is now trying to sell less expensive plant because it admits that it has an embarrassingly high excess of generation capacity. They should keep the coal plants for Georgia's consumers, if the electricity is needed, and should immediately halt construction on the Vogtle plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should suspend the construction permit and hold hearings to determine if there is truly a need for the plant in view of the new facts concerning lower growth and cheaper alternatives.

The Georgia Public Service Commission is supposed to act to hold down electric bills for Georgia consumers. Under this authority, the PSC should order Georgia Power not to sell the coal plants, and to halt construction on the nuclear plants. They should hold hearings on the entire future of energy in Georgia--which alternatives are best from an economic, social and environmental viewpoint.

The United States Congress has passed the National Energy Act which includes numerous methods for encouraging energy conservation and alternative energy

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

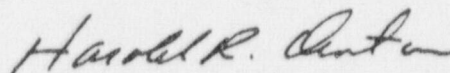
GEORGIA POWER COMPANY)
(Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear) Docket Nos. 50-424
Plant, Units 1 & 2) 50-425

REQUEST FOR ORDER TO SUSPEND CONSTRUCTION
PERMITS OF GEORGIA POWER COMPANY FOR VOGTLE
UNITS 1 AND 2

Notice is hereby given that by letter dated October 31, 1978, Georgians Against Nuclear Power, Atlanta, Georgia, requested that the Commission suspend the construction permits issued to Georgia Power Company for the Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, and hold hearings to determine the need for the Vogtle units in light of allegedly new evidence concerning electrical demand in Georgia and relative costs of energy alternatives. This request is being treated under 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. Action will be taken on this request within a reasonable time.

A copy of the request is available for inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room for the Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant located at the Burke County Library, 4th Street, Waynesboro, Georgia 30830.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION:



Harold Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Md.
this 30 day of November 1978

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