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Chattooga River Watershed Coalition

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OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

ATTN:
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Administrative Judges
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication
Office of Commission, Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
US NRC counsel
US NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board members
Duke Energy Corporation attorneys

September 30, 1998

Dear Sir/Madam,

Pursuant to our petition to intervene in the proceedings regarding the application of Duke Energy Corporation to renew the operating license for Units 1, 2 and 3 of the Oconee Nuclear Station (Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287), the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition, Norman "Buzz" Williams, William "Butch" Clay and W.S. Lesan hereby submit the following specific subjects as amendments to said petition to intervene. We respectfully submit these specific subjects to meet the requirements of 10 C.F.R. 2.714 (a)(2) and other applicable laws.

1. We submit that the proceedings regarding Duke Energy Corporation's application to renew the operating license for Units 1, 2 and 3 of the Oconee Nuclear Station (Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270 and 50-287), and the subsequent handling of this request by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fail to fully comply with the letter and intent of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Administrative Procedures Act, as follows. We submit that the expedited nature of these proceedings, where petitions to intervene are mandated before any opportunity is available for citizens to participate in public meetings, fails to comply with the letter and intent of NEPA, and furthermore, indicate arbitrary and capricious actions by the NRC. It is common knowledge that through the forum of public meetings, citizens obtain much educational information and have the opportunity to become cognizant of and verbalize issues of local, regional and national scope that could merit legal standing for future action. It is also common knowledge that citizens do not read the Federal Register as a matter of course; thus, the vast majority of the public is totally unaware of the rigid timeline of these proceedings, and most importantly, the slim window of opportunity to gain expertise on and legal standing for certain issues. In addition, as a result of the aforementioned deficiencies, we hold that an adequate range of germane issues are in the process of being excluded from consideration, meaningful analysis, and subsequent treatment.

2. We submit that the specific issue of embrittlement of the Oconee Nuclear Station's containment vessels must be addressed in these proceedings. We hold that rigorous scientific investigations are timely and necessary, and all findings must be acted upon as well as made public. Common sense dictates that questions concerning embrittlement, as well as other issues and factors directly related to the aging of the Oconee Nuclear Station must be addressed before re-licensing of the facility can be considered. This is an issue of full disclosure of cumulative effects, and reasonably foreseeable potential risks and impacts to the human and natural environment, public safety, and the public's right to know. We submit that the above issues are included in the scope of NEPA, and the Administrative Procedures Act.

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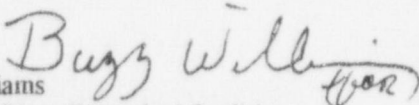
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3. We submit that the specific issue of the storage of spent fuel and other radioactive substances on the site of the Oconee Nuclear Station must be addressed in these proceedings. Directly related specific issues also include: the status and capacity of the current storage facility; the potential need to design and expand storage facilities to accommodate extended operation of Units 1, 2 and 3 of the Oconee Nuclear Station; specific safeguards to detect and plans defend against terrorist actions; transport of radioactive materials to other locations if and when storage capacity is exceeded; and, the real and potential availability and viability of other storage sites. We submit that the above issues are included in the scope of NEPA, and the Administrative Procedures Act.

We appreciate your attention to giving due consideration to these important, specific issues. We are aware that the NRC is responding to pressure and directions from Members of Congress, and industry. The intent of this communication is to be cordial, and firm.

Note: The Chattooga River Watershed Coalition is a small, non-profit organization engaged in many activities that were ongoing before the schedule of these proceedings were listed in the Federal Register, and subsequent memorandums and orders. The limitations of the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition, as well as the scope our ongoing programs and previous commitments is such that the organization has had neither adequate notice nor funds available to retain counsel at this date. In addition, the citizens named in the petition to intervene (Norman "Buzz" Williams, William "Butch" Clay and W. S. Lesan) are all engaged in full time jobs with limited incomes, and thus also have had neither adequate notice nor funds available to retain counsel at this date. Thus, the petition and these amendments have been submitted in a good faith effort to serve the public and to comply with all applicable laws and other directives.

Sincerely,


Buzz Williams
Chattooga River Watershed Coalition
Butch Clay
W.S. Lesan

Note: This request was sent via email to all parties involved with this proceeding, and via US Postal Service, first class, to the same.

