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ADD: Tam Tran, Antoinette
 Walker-Smith, Ted Smith, Mary
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Docket: NRC-2022-0183

Vistra Operations Company LLC Comanche Peak Power Company LLC Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

Comment On: NRC-2022-0183-0003

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement; Vistra Operations Company LLC; Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 1 and 2

Document: NRC-2022-0183-DRAFT-1133

Comment on FR Doc # 2022-27025

Submitter Information

Name: L. Watchempino

Email: 5000wave@gmail.com

General Comment

RE: Docket ID NRC-2022-0183

Dear NRC:

I urge you to reject Vistra's application to extend the operating licenses for its Comanche Peak nuclear power reactors for an additional 20 years. The aging reactors should be retired and decommissioned by 2030 and 2033, as currently licensed. Nuclear reactors are subject to metal fatigue, embrittlement and stress corrosion cracking as they age, greatly increasing the risk of accidental radiation releases. Allowing aging reactors to operate past their retirement dates will endanger the health, safety and security of 7-8 million people in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and beyond.

In addition, fracking in the Barnett Shale region, where the Comanche Peak reactors are located, has increased the risk of earthquakes. Seismic concerns need to be reexamined in light of a recent magnitude 3 earthquake less than 20 miles away. A single earthquake could damage the Squaw Creek Reservoir which provides cooling water for the nuclear reactors. Radioactive tritium in the reservoir could be released and spread throughout the environment. The integrity of the earthen dam must be examined, along with all operational and maintenance inspection records.

Most importantly, extending the life of these aged reactors will generate more onsite deadly radioactive waste in need of permanent disposal. No such permanent disposal site for the nation's commercial nuclear reactor waste currently exists, so this highly radioactive waste is stored onsite at nuclear reactor facilities throughout the country. Both Texas and New Mexico governmental representatives are fighting plans to bring this high-level radioactive waste into their respective states for long-term storage. The NRC should halt the generation of even more nuclear waste.

There is no need for 20 more years of nuclear power. Renewable solar and wind generation can easily and affordably replace extended nuclear power generation, without creating more deadly radioactive waste. Texas has abundant renewable resources to tap and a grid to move the power where it is needed.

I request that in-person scoping meetings be held in Texas, as originally planned, now that Covid risks have subsided. I further request a hearing opportunity for those seeking to intervene and that the deadline for requesting a hearing be extended for another 90 days past the current January 30 deadline.

Both an afternoon and evening public scoping meeting were initially scheduled, then postponed at the last moment without advance public notice. Four hours of in-person meeting time were reduced to only two hours online. There is now no evening opportunity to participate for people who work during the day, and not everyone can access online meetings. There will be no exhibits or opportunity to speak directly with any NRC staff.

Please extend the deadline for intervention and hearing requests, and schedule additional in-person scoping meetings.

Thank you.