

From: "Judy Hogan" <judyhogan@mindspring.com>
To: OWFN_DO.owf5_po(HEARINGDOCKET)
Date: Sat, Nov 13, 1999 12:11 PM
Subject: Request to speak at hearing December 8, afternoon, in Chapel Hill

PO Box 253
Moncure, N.C. 27559-0253
November 13, 1999

Office of the Secretary
Rulemakings and Adjudications staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555-0001
e-mail: <hearingdocket@nrc.gov>

Re: Request to make the following oral statement or portions of it on
December 8, 1999, between 1 & 4 PM, in Chapel Hill, N.C.

To whom it may concern:

Although this hearing apparently is to have no serious meaning for the decision the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is to make concerning CP & L's proposed doubling of *spent* fuel at its Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant in Wake County, North Carolina, I would like to urge you to consider the risks, not only to the citizens within 50 miles of this plant, which CP & L wishes to make the single largest site for the storage of hot nuclear waste in the country, but for all North Carolina residents.

Recently, when I was taking a walk in the vicinity of Jordan Lake, which is within 10 miles of the Harris plant, I got to talking to a man who was considering buying land and wanted to know what it was like here. I live in Moncure, and I have an evacuation sign across the street from where I live. I told him that Moncure was a nice little town; people have lived here for generations, and it's a settled, family town. I like it. It's lovely to be near Jordan Lake and all the rivers that meet near here to form the Cape Fear River Basin, with the water continuing on to the ocean. The only disadvantage, I told him, is the Harris plant, which wants to increase its hot waste storage. I said we had already been able to stop the low-level nuclear dump planned for the Wake-Chatham border. Now we were working on CP & L.

He was from Apex, even closer to this plant, and said that, in his opinion, that plant was *an accident waiting to happen.* He knew about the earthquake fault it sits on. He is one of many people, from whom you will probably not hear at these hearings, who live in my area and are very worried. They are convinced that CP & L simply doesn't care about their lives. Most of us in Moncure, Apex, and New Hill are not rich. We have invested our life savings in our houses, farms, businesses. I would like to speak for those who worry but do not speak out.

Why should citizens in North Carolina, concerned simply about their safety and that of future generations, who want to prevent a serious nuclear accident in their backyard, which would affect the earth, air, and water, for 50 miles around, even need to ask the Nuclear Regulatory Agency to consider safety? The government exists to serve the people, and this is a federal government agency. It is my understanding that the only reason why CP & L will not choose the much safer option of dry cask storage for these

spent fuel rods is simply that it would cut a very small amount into their profits.

But I think the reason for their taking up a position counter to the best interests of us all goes deeper. It isn't just money. It's fear. In the late 70s I saw that movie *China Syndrome,* which came out at the time of the Three-Mile Island accident. What struck me then and still strikes me, as I deal with the executives and staff at CP & L, is that the staff of a company that owns a nuclear plant are apparently so afraid to risk losing face or losing their jobs that they can't do what they think is right, even when their own children and grandchildren's lives and health are at stake.

It's a sad commentary on American society, the most prosperous in the world, that those who supply our electricity no longer see themselves as serving us, but as outwitting our concerns for safety. We have for centuries been so proud of our democracy, and yet our large corporations more and more often show their contempt for people's health and safety. 11 local governments within this 50-mile radius requested a formal hearing where the safety issues raised by top nuclear experts could be reviewed. This has been denied. We are allowed to speak, but we are not allowed to affect their decision.

Yet wherever human beings are involved, there is always hope for change. I ask you who listen now to listen to your hearts, to examine the concerns we raise with your consciences. Why did you not already raise these issues yourselves? Why haven't you already told CP & L that they can't put more spent fuel rods in their pools, that they can't crowd them, because, should there be any problems, there would not be enough water circulating to cool all the material that could set off a nuclear reaction, making even a meltdown of the plant itself possible?

Once an accident occurs, we can't fix it. We simply live with nuclear pollution in our air, water, and earth for the next 10,000 years or more. We leave the Triangle area. We leave North Carolina. Where do we go? Will the federal government re-settle us, pay for our care as our health deteriorates?

CP & L has slogan words: *good neighbor* and *corporate citizen.* Let them spend their budget for corporate donations on safe storage. Then they'd be good neighbors and citizens. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

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