

70-3103

August 25, 2002

Tim Johnson
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Johnson:

Please see the attached letter that I am sending out to local government officials in the Hartsville, Tennessee.

The Hartsville site owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority is one of the two sites now being considered by Louisiana Energy Services as a site for the construction of a fuel-grade uranium plant.

We DO NOT want this plant built in our area!

NMSS01
Public

August 25, 2002

Dear Sir/Madam:

While watching FOX17 News last night, my husband and I were shocked to learn that the site known as the Hartsville Nuclear Plant is one of two sites (the other in Alabama) being considered by Louisiana Energy Services as the site to build a nuclear fuel plant.

My husband and I own our home on Hiwassee Road in Smith County, Tennessee. Hiwassee Road is a "river road" that runs directly across the Cumberland River from the Hartsville Plant; the plant's reactor is visible from our driveway. Therefore, you can understand our outrage when we found out that LES is going to make a final decision on the site for this project by September 15th yet the residents of the area had not been allowed to voice their views.

~~We do NOT want this nuclear-fuel plant at this site and so near to our home.~~

We fear that this site will have a negative impact on our property value and will make it more difficult to sell our property in the future. We bought our home and land only 3.5 years ago and would NOT have purchased the property if we had known that it was going to be used for this purpose. When we purchased the property, we were assured by everyone we spoke to that the site was not going to be used for any type of nuclear venture.

Also, although we are not sure whether or not the plans by LES require that the current tower be used in the fuel production process, we fear that a tower that has been vacant for approximately 20 years is not safe nor was it ever safe. Both my husband's uncle and cousin worked on construction of the original tower and have repeatedly told us that they knew at that time that the tower would never open because construction was sub-standard and it was considered by many to be "make-busy" work.

In addition, this area is much more populated than it was 20 years ago and we believe that the area will continue to grow in the years ahead especially as the area near Lebanon grows.

We are also furious that LES failed to convince the people in Louisiana to allow them to build this plant yet they have decided to dump this unsafe plant on the people of Trousdale, Smith and Wilson Counties (the Hartsville site is near the border where the three counties meet). It was interesting to read in the Tennessean that the company was accused of "environmental racism" for picking a site populated by minorities. Is this considered a "safe spot" because the area is not heavily populated by minorities but rather by quiet country people who rarely make waves?

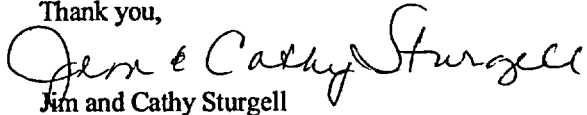
~~Also, regardless of attempts by the LES to convince us that this is a safe undertaking (via the Tennessean newspaper article of 9/24), we are not and will not be convinced that this is safe for residents of the area. If this was the case, there would not have been so much secrecy surrounding the negotiations until this time – only 3 weeks until final decision! Uranium is still atomic matter regardless of whether or not it is fuel-grade or weapons grade. We do not believe that an accident at the site would not pose a threat to our land, water, area wildlife or, most importantly, the residents. Also, we fear the long-term health affects of living so close to this type of plant and do not feel that we could count on LES to provide us with an accurate description of the hazards! We also fear that, if allowed to proceed, the plant could eventually be changed to incorporate production of the more deadly weapons-grade material.~~

At present, the Hartsville site is considered to be a "clean" site and the construction of the fuel plant at this site would render the land useless.

Finally, the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001 has made us much more aware of our surroundings and the risks of living so near such a controversial hot spot. This is a quiet area and we wish it to remain this way.

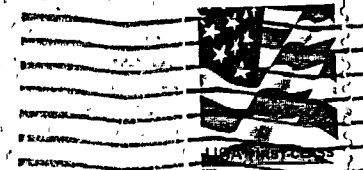
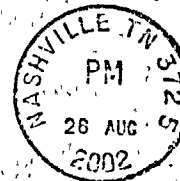
This controversial project is not wanted nor needed here. We DO NOT want this site used for any type of nuclear project. We urge you to vote against this proposal or speak out against it for the sake of the residents.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim & Cathy Sturgell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jim and Cathy Sturgell
83 Hiwassee Road
Lebanon, TN 37087

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