

STATEMENT OF CONCERNED CITIZENS IN ILLINOIS

June 21, 2004

Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk, III
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
Mail Stop T-3F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKETED
USNRC

June 28, 2004 (3:37pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Judge Bollwerk:

We, the undersigned citizens living near the Clinton nuclear plant in Clinton, Illinois, are concerned about Exelon's plans to possibly expand the site by adding a second reactor. Our major concerns are as follows:

- The history of nuclear power demonstrates that nuclear reactors are expensive, with final costs often running billions of dollars over budget, a factor which gave Illinoisans the highest electric rates in the Mid-west in the 1980s and 1990s;
- Safer, cheaper alternatives to new nuclear generating capacity, such as energy efficiency, conservation, and wind power, are not being explored as part of the Early Site Permit process and have been actively opposed by Exelon in our state legislature over the past few years;
- Renewable energy sources such as wind power—which has enormous potential in Illinois—create more jobs per investment dollar than does nuclear power;
- In a time of increased terrorist threat, constructing new nuclear power plants—a proven al Qaeda target—increases physical and economic risks to central Illinois residents, Exelon shareholders, and nuclear industry employees which in the case of Clinton is less than a 30-minute flight from one of the world's busiest airports at O'Hare;
- Over 2½ years after September 11th, 2001, legislation to improve security at nuclear plants has not been enacted, and security improvements by the nuclear industry have been shown to have significant gaps and flaws;
- Terrorist threats may lead to severe restrictions on public access to Clinton Lake, as has already happened, adversely impacting local businesses and property values;
- There is at this time no solution to the problem of nuclear waste. Constructing new reactors will only worsen that problem, and Illinois state law declares that it is illegal to construct new nuclear plants in the state until the waste problem has been solved;
- Emergency plans for dealing with an accident or terrorist attack are inadequate, relying heavily on questionable trained and equipped teachers, bus drivers, doctors, and other civilians and the Illinois National Guard—which may not be available if deployed elsewhere—to facilitate an evacuation, without taking into account the possibility of role abandonment;