

From: <Sama_Bilbao@Dom.com>
To: "NorthAnna_ESP@nrc.gov" <NorthAnna_ESP@nrc.gov>
Date: 8/16/2006 10:31:25 AM
Subject: Comments by Sama Bilbao y Leon

These are the remarks that I made last night (08/15/2006) at the public meeting in Louisa. Thank you!

Good evening.

My name is Sama Bilbao y León, and I am a member of the American Nuclear Society and the North American Young Generation in Nuclear.

I am also a nuclear engineer, and as such, I am extremely proud of the very significant contribution that nuclear science and technology makes every day to improve our quality of life. This contribution is most times very quiet, unglamorous, and behind the scenes, and most people are truly unaware of it. In particular, I think that nuclear power is an unsung hero, that every day generates more than 35% of the electricity we consume in Virginia, safely, cleanly, inexpensively and reliably.

I am an active environmentalist. I share the concerns about minimizing human impact on the planet, and preserving natural resources for future generations, and I have adapted my lifestyle accordingly. I am a young professional in nuclear. I know that nuclear power is the most environmentally sound, large-scale option for new energy investment. Nuclear power minimizes environmental impact by using a small land area and a small amount of fuel to produce a large energy output. Furthermore, it accomplishes this without releasing any greenhouse gas emissions. The byproducts of nuclear power are the most manageable of energy waste products, being totally contained, retrievable, and reusable.

I cannot understand how any serious environmentalist, after thoroughly reviewing all the FACTS, can realistically dismiss the measurable positive contribution of existing nuclear power plants, and the potential beneficial role of new nuclear power towards the sustainable development of humankind. I insist... I am talking about the unbiased review of FACTS, not fear mongering half-truths and out-of-context misinterpreted data.

We live in a world where the difference between the haves and the have-nots are enormous, and where there will be a huge increase in the demand for electricity to close this gap. We live in a world where energy resources are scarce and unevenly distributed, and are part of the root cause of the wars and terrorism that rule our lives. We live in a world where climate change, partly caused by human activities, may be behind the increased

number of catastrophic weather events we have faced in recent times.

Given all these conditions that shape the world in which we live, it is difficult not to arrive to the realization that it will be impossible to support sustainable development, attain energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions without having nuclear power as an important part of our energy mix. In the US, studies show that it is not possible to maintain the existing percentage of non-emitting energy sources (let alone increase this percentage!) without the contribution of nuclear power. That means that just to maintain our current level of economic development and environmental quality we will need to build new nuclear power plants.

I commend Dominion for being proactive in planning for expected increases in energy demand over the coming years, while considering sources that minimize the environmental footprint, as well as the economic burden to Dominion customers.

I also support the ESP process as the means to guarantee an open and thorough evaluation of future nuclear projects, involving all the stakeholders, while ensuring the timeliness and predictability of the process.

I think the process works, and this is why we are here today. We all had the opportunity to voice our concerns with Dominion's plans in February 2005, and Dominion was proactive enough to revise its proposal to address the concerns raised by the community. And here we are again, ready to provide our opinions to the supplemental draft EIS that NRC has provided.

Personally, I think that the original proposal would not have resulted in any negative environmental or socio-economic impacts in Lake Anna and the surrounding areas. Therefore the new revised plan, which has an even smaller footprint, does not result in any negative effects. For that reason I want to voice my SUPPORT to granting to Dominion Resources an Early Site Permit to construct new nuclear reactors at its North Anna site.

Thank you.

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