

From: "Melissa Kemp" <mkemp@citizen.org>
To: <JXC9@NRC.GOV>
Date: Thu, Aug 3, 2006 12:22 PM
Subject: Request for Rescheduling of North Anna Public Meeting

Mr. Cushing,

Attached is a letter briefly outlining the concerns of several local, state, and national groups about the date NRC has set for the upcoming public meeting around the North Anna SDEIS. We appreciate your consideration of these concerns. If you have any questions about the letter or the request, please feel free to contact me at 202-454-5176.

Thanks,

Melissa

Melissa Kemp
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August 1, 2006

Jack Cushing
Senior Project Manager
New Reactor Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Scheduled Public Hearing on North Anna SDEIS

Dear Mr. Cushing:

As environmental and consumer groups representing members of the public, we are writing regarding NRC's Federal Register Notice on July 12, 2006. The Notice announced the availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Anna ESP site and set a public meeting on the issue. The meeting was announced for August 15, 2006 – the evening before a previously scheduled public hearing by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the water impacts of new reactors at the North Anna ESP site.

We are concerned about the unusual back to back scheduling of these meetings. Both meetings are at the same location and are likely to be of interest to the same local stakeholders. Moreover, the Virginia DEQ's hearing was arranged several weeks prior to NRC's announcement. As people have to work during the week and must often arrange for child care in the evenings, it would be difficult for them to attend both meetings. Such an arrangement is not conducive for real public participation, and it is unacceptable for a federal agency to set public meetings at times when it is obviously difficult for the interested public to attend.

We strongly recommend that NRC reschedule the hearing to a later date in order to allow full public participation in both hearings.

We appreciate your serious consideration of these matters. Please contact Melissa Kemp at Public Citizen (202-454-5176 or mkemp@citizen.org) with any responses to this letter or with any questions.

Sincerely,

Louis Zeller, Administrator
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Paul Gunter
Director Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Elena Day
People's Alliance for Clean Energy (PACE)

Tyson Slocum
Director, Energy Program
Public Citizen

Michael Town, Director
Sierra Club-Virginia Chapter

CC:

Christopher Nolan, Branch Chief
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation