

LeeCOLAEISComments Resource

From: Skip_Mich [skeele@morrisbb.net]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 9:45 AM
To: LeeCOLAEIS Resource
Subject: 76 FR 79228, Dec 21, 2011

To the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

According to the National Academy of Science, there is no safe level of radiation. Radiation exposure damages reproductive cells, immune system—causes genetic mutations and cancer, spontaneous abortion, mental retardation, spina bifida, heart disease, leukemia and more. (National Academy of Sciences; World Health Organization). Health effects can show up 10-30 years later. The so called 10 mile and 50 mile risk area around nuclear plants doesn't hold true for the people and children of Belarus , victims of 1986 Chernobyl fallout who are still suffering debilitating diseases as a result of contamination from 124 miles away. In Japan, Fukushima has sent fallout to Tokyo and Asheville is 3 times closer to Gaffney's proposed nuclear site. Like Japan, we live on fault lines here in Western North Carolina and Upstate South Carolina. We are at risk for a seismic event which could cause irreparable damage to the Nuclear Power Stations in our region. I don't believe nuclear power is worth the kind of risk and human suffering we've seen in recent history!

Lee Nuclear Plant would use 47 million gallons of water per day with 75% loss through evaporation. The NRC has called the Broad River "small" and climate change in the region has been causing droughts for the last decade or more. Shut down could happen due to lack of water for cooling, a very dangerous occurrence. The Broad River currently supports a hydropower station, the Cliffside coal plant only 16 miles upriver and Summer nuclear plant (1 reactor, 2 more proposed) downstream near Columbia, SC . After use, water is returned to the river as "thermal pollution" (warm water) which stresses fish, other animals living in the area and negatively impacts the surrounding environment. The SC Dept of Natural Resources list the Carolina Fantail Darter fish that lives in the Broad River as "critically imperiled" in South Carolina & warns of "high conservation priority". I don't believe we can continue to rely on the Broad and its natural populations to support even more cooling capacity.

The price tag for the two nuclear reactors at Lee has grown from \$11 to \$14 billion. Duke Power wants customers to pay pre-construction costs through rate hikes in addition to taxpayers shouldering the entire financial risk through Federal Loan Guarantees. Another Bail-Out in the making! Wall Street won't invest because as the Congressional Budget Office says, default rate on loans for new reactors are "very high, well above 50%". Duke and Progress said their proposed merger was the only way to build more nuclear but the Federal Government has refused the request twice in opposition to such a large monopoly. The proposed plant does not make fiscal sense!

Uranium fuel is not a renewable or clean source of energy. Miners have been diagnosed with lung diseases, cancer. Uranium mining releases radon from the ground into the atmosphere. Mines and mining waste can release radionuclide, including radon and other pollutants to streams, springs, and other bodies of water. I believe we should invest our resources in clean, renewable energy systems such as solar!

Storing radioactive waste on-site has contaminated ground water at many reactor sites. After more than 40 years of commercial radioactive waste generation, there is no long term location to keep it safe and contrary to many claims, no way to "recycle" it. Out of 104 US reactor sites, 100 have contaminated soil leading to contaminated ground water. Why will Lee be different? Nuclear waste remains radioactive for millions of years. There are currently 145 million tons of waste at 77 US sites. We can't afford to generate more nuclear waste!!

Thank you for your earnest consideration of this matter!

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