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James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant; Consideration of Approval of Transfer of License and Conforming Amendment

Comment On: NRC-2016-0195-0001

James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant; Consideration of Approval of Transfer of License and Conforming Amendment; Application for Direct Transfer of License

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General Comment

As an environmental engineer, professionally licensed in the State of New York, I vehemently disagree that nuclear energy should be re-categorized as a "clean" energy. Even if no catastrophic event occurs at the facility, the outstanding problem of spent nuclear waste still exists. Currently, the FitzPatrick and neighboring Nine Mile facilities house depleted nuclear rods on-site. This practice carries enormous national security and environmental risks, especially given the half-lives of uranium, plutonium, and the associated isotopes that are a by-product of nuclear fission. These risks entail high external cost burdens to society.

The hew and cry of the United States economic culture is a sacred pledge to faith in capitalism. This License and Conforming Amendment is nothing but a large transfer of wealth from the people to Exelon in the form of a monthly rate fee in our electric utility bills and in the transfer of the \$700,000,000 decommissioning trust fund directly to Exelon. That fund is intended to be held by the State in the public trust to oversee the proper decommissioning of the facilities when the time arrives. However, Exelon will instead be profiting from the exchange by taking on a deteriorating nuclear plant that its own owner only valued at \$110,000,000. No doubt they are placing pressure on the NRC and New York State to move on this purchasing and licensing decision with a deal that makes them a tidy \$600,000,000, in addition to continued rate-payer subsidies for 12 years. How many other industries in Central New York received a similar financial package with the magnitude of guaranteed income, plus a public trust fund?

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I've been laid-off before (more than once), so I am sympathetic to the loss of hundreds of professional positions at Scriba and the subsequent ramification in the surrounding communities. However, the FitzPatrick employees are immensely educated individuals who have opportunities elsewhere, and not only in this country, but in the world. That is how "the market" of capitalism works. Yes, it is inconvenient to move. But, it is sometimes necessary. It does not mean, however, that because another more efficient energy sector has out-competed nuclear that the public must now support Exelon via corporate welfare. Therefore, I am adamantly opposed to this application for direct transfer of license on the basis of environmental concerns, as well as economic concerns.