

ROBERT MORGAN
NORTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NUMBER

PROD. & UJIL. C.

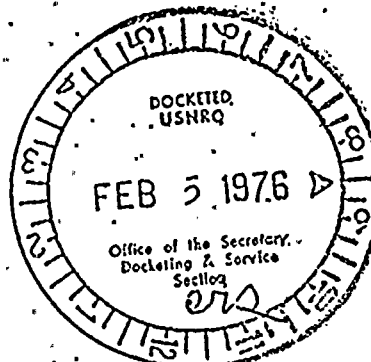
50-400/403

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 9, 1975

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street
Washington, D. C.
20555



Dear Sir:

Attached you will find a copy of a letter from my constituent, Mr. James A. Burt, Jr., concerning the proposed site of the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant.

I pass this letter on to you for your information and attention. I will appreciate a copy of your findings.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert Morgan
Robert Morgan

RM:tam

Enclosure

DOCKET NUMBER

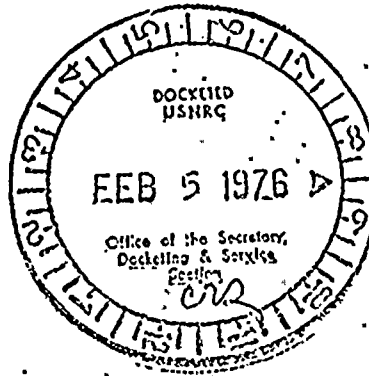
PROD. & MAIL, FAC. 50

400/403

1013 E Village Greenway

Cary, N. C. 27511

Nov. 25, 1975



Senator Robert Morgan
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Sir:

I am writing concerning the controversy of the Sherman Harris Nuclear Power Plant located eighteen miles southwest of Raleigh, N. C. Nuclear power may indeed be the part of the solution of our energy crisis; however, the Sherman Harris plant poses a potential threat to thousands of people. The site for the plant is located over a fault. According to sources throughout the scientific circles, the AEC has stated that the Harris fault is the largest ever found beneath a nuclear power plant site. Although there has been no general agreement as to how risky construction of a plant would be, the Atomic Energy Commission has said that the fault is probably 200 million years old and that any fault over 35,000 years old is safe enough to build on.

Dr. S. Duncan Heron, Jr., chairman of the Geology Department at Duke University, disputes the AEC's analysis of the situation and states that although earthquakes in the east are not frequent, when they do occur, they are more severe than those in California. According to Dr. Heron, one of the worst aspects of the fault is that it is within several hundred feet of one of the nuclear reactors.

Other opposition comes from David M. Steward, Department of Geology at the University of North Carolina. He feels that Carolina Power and Light did not conduct a complete history of earthquakes in planning the site. Their report contains incomplete and misleading information which creates the impression that the site is completely safe. They state that the Charleston quake of 1886 which was felt at the Sherman Harris site would not happen for another 10,000 years, and even then would not be closer than 200 miles. No scientific grounds were given to justify this information. According to Steward, Carolina Power and Light stated that the Jonesboro Fault, four miles to the east, has been inactive for at least 100 million years. He feels that as many as two or three small tremors felt in Raleigh over the past century could have originated from the fault.

Mr. Stewart states further that "earthquake risk for nuclear power plant siting is done by the power company which reports its findings to AEC." In my opinion until all doubt as to the safety of the site is relieved, construction should not be allowed. A more detailed study of the area should be undertaken. Efforts should be taken to study any changes in the area. A record should be kept of any noticeable changes. If a more thorough study is not conducted before construction begins, we could be in for a lesson we will never forget.

This is of grave concern to me and other informed citizens of the state. Please use your influence to stop this proposal or to delay this decision until a more thorough study is made.

Yours truly,

James A. Burt, Jr.
James A. Burt, Jr.

