

NRC Public Meetings  
for  
License Renewal Application for  
Susquehanna Nuclear Plant  
Wednesday, November 15th, 2006  
Public Input by  
Sue Fracke, Sugarloaf, Pa  
in 10 Mile Radius

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every year 20,000 people die of cancer from naturally occurring background radiation. You would think that this fact alone would be enough to say let us not produce anymore radiation as it will kill more people. With all our other means of making energy especially all the various kinds of solar energy that we now have the technology to do, it makes no sense to use a source of energy that is dangerous and will cause more people to die of cancer, and other degenerative diseases.

In the Federal Register, December 15, 1989, Part II, by the Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR Part 61 on National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutans; Radionuclides; Final Rule and Notice of Reconsideration stated "On December 27, 1979, EPA listed radionuclides as a hazardous air pollutant. EPA determined that radionuclides are a known cause of cancer and genetic damage and that radionuclides cause or contribute to air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to result in an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, and therefore constitute a hazardous air pollutant within the meaning of section 112(a)(1). There are three major types of long-term health impacts from exposure to radiation: Cancer, hereditary effects, and developmental effects on fetuses such as mental retardation. In addition, risk distribution from radiation from most of the sources considered for regulation show that fatal cancers occur much more frequently than non-fatal cancers and cancers generally occur more often than genetic or developmental effects." It also states that "Numerous studies have demonstrated that radiation is a carcinogen. It is assumed that there is no completely risk-free level of exposure to radiation to cause cancer." Radiation corrodes metal such as in the pipes of nuclear power plants causing holes that constantly emit radiation in our air under the routine operation of the plants. Radiation is cummulative in our bodies and the effects of exposure can sometimes take many years before showing up. And we were worried that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction.

Along with radioactive air pollutants, the Enviromental Protection Agency reports thaat in 2002 24,379 U.S. non-nuclear facilities released 4.79 billion pounds of toxins into the atmosphere. Of these pollutants, 72 million pounds were known carcinogens. We have no concept of the synergistic effects of these toxins when they are mixed with radioactive pollutants. These toxins impinge on health, during your entire life, even before birth. A study in New York City shows that the genetic material in fetuses still in their mothers' womb is damaged by air pollution.

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From the Radiation and Public Health Project in Norristown, PA, they have found that "Current rates of infant deaths, childhood cancer, and thyroid cancer, all known to be effected by emissions from nuclear reactors, are elevated in Luzerne County, the site of the Susquehanna Nuclear plant.

These findings, and other data on local disease rates, should be part of the federal decision on whether the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission should approve the application of PPL Susquehanna LLC to operate the plant until 2044 (the current license only allows operation until 2024). This information was presented at a federal hearing today in Berwick on the application.

"These high disease rates should shock all Luzerne County residents, and they should demand a thorough study of the health risks posed by the Susquehanna plant," said Joseph Mangano MPH MBA of the Radiation and Public Health Project, who presented the data. "If radioactive emissions from the plant have been harmful, people should know this before the government decides whether or not to extend the plant's license."

The 2000-2004 county rate of white infants who died in their first month was 23% above the U.S. rate, based on 55 deaths. In that same period, 43 Luzerne children under age 15 were diagnosed with cancer, a rate 38% above the nation. Data are taken from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry.

Thyroid cancer statistics may be most alarming. In the late 1980's, as the two reactors at Susquehanna were starting, the Luzerne rate was 20% below the U.S. However, in 2000-2003, the Luzerne rate was 100% above (double) the nation. Radioactive iodine found only in nuclear weapons and reactors seeks out the thyroid gland where it kills and impairs cells, leading to cancer.

Two large nuclear reactors have operated at Susquehanna beginning in 1982 and 1984, respectively. Virtually all of the 312,000 residents of Luzerne County live within 15 miles of the plant, and would be most likely to receive the greatest radiation exposures. Like all reactors, Susquehanna routinely emits gases and particles into the air and water, which enters human bodies by breathing and the food chain. There are over 100 radioactive chemicals in this mix; each causes cancer, and is especially harmful to fetuses, infants and children.

California closed down the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant many years ago. Through conservation, solar and other forms of energy, they created over 800 new jobs and lowered their rates. Nuclear Power is only 19% of our energy in the U.S. Through conservation and solar we could close down all the nuclear power plants in our country and save thousands of lives. I know those little candle lights look cute at night in your windows, but they aren't really necessary. Turning them

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off may help save someone's live. Maybe your child's.

Anyone who wants nuclear power plants, and our President wants 55 more in this country, should be considered a terrorist.

We are also using depleted uranium bombs in Iraq. Both our soldiers and the Iraqis are being exposed. Many of the Iraqi children are getting Leukemia. Remember the Gulf War Syndrome? Our soldiers were exposed then, too, and many of their children had birth defects and many of the soldiers got very sick and our government didn't want to tell them why. Who's the terrorists?

Does everyone realize that our nuke plants are also becoming high level waste sites? Everyone's life is at stake here. Do what's right.

**SHUT THEM DOWN!**

Thank You,

Sue Fracke