

NAPSEISComment Resource

From: Elena Day [elena.day@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 8:23 AM
To: NorthAnnaCOLAEIS Resource
Subject: Comments

Just want to make sure my comments from the April 16 meeting are included. I also want to add that the meeting was a free for all for the Dominion supporters who went on and on way past any 3 minute statement limit - retired Dominion personnel, Virginia Tech professors who have recently received Dominion funds for nuclear engineering programs at VT, Nuclear Energy Institute lobbyists like Lisa Schell (who is on loan to NEI from Dominion - talk about a "revolving door") and of course, the Young Generation in Nuclear, incl. the speaker who at the end of the program chose to slam environmentalists. This was in very poor taste, and Chip Cameron should have put a stop to this.

It would be easy to poke at the folks from the Young Generation in Nuclear as caricatures, but I have refrained from doing so in my presentations. The hearing process has become a Dominion sideshow/carnival at the expense of citizens that are very concerned about this rush to build new nukes. Dominion supporters generally did not address any specific new or old environmental concerns. Rather their presentations, many of which were allowed to go on far too long, were simply testimonials regarding how well Dominion runs its operations and should be allowed to proceed with its new nukes without regard to any documents on record that actually project future energy needs. If and how conservation and energy efficiency might offset the need to embark on construction of new nukes is not even mentioned (has Dominion even explored these options ?). New nukes will cost the citizens of the Commonwealth billions of dollars and in no way will these not further degrade the water situation of the North Anna watershed.

Below are my comments from April 16.

My name is Elena Day and I am with PACE. The Envi Impact Statement has failed to address the consequences of what might well be permanent storage of high level waste at Lake Anna in the irradiated fuel water pools as well as dry casks. The high level waste continues to accumulate and new nukes will be generating more waste. Yucca Mtn. has not opened and is not likely to open any time soon. And it is well know that Yucca cannot accept waste generated by US plants beyond 2010. So Dominion continues to bet that this high level waste is going to go somewhere else. It is irresponsible for Dominion as well as for the NRC to entertain construction of new nukes when the high level radioactive waste issue (and now since Barnwell is to close in June 2008 – the low level radioactive waste issue as well) remains unresolved. How much low level waste does Dominion plan to store on Lake Anna's shores ? How many dry casks does Dominion plan to site on the shores of Lake Anna. And will it be expanding water storage capacity ? Will construction of more pools physically disturb Lake shores ? Will more waste increase possibility of accident in the irradiated fuel pools ? If and when a repository for high level waste is licensed, how will the waste be transported safely, along what routes and is an evacuation plan included to safeguard residents in Louisa and along transportation routes in VA.

Are water pools and dry casks accumulating on the Lake targets for terrorist attacks ? Will additional storage be adequately protected ?

We are learning more and more about the hazards of tritium exposure and we also know that it is routinely released into the Lake and into the atmosphere. How will Dominion and the NRC act to limit tritium releases ? Both Dominion and the NRC must continue to study and make public the effects of tritium exposure on humans and flora and fauna who live on and in the Lake and downstream.

I want to emphasize again my outrage that Dominion continues to discharge water without an upper temperature limit into Lake Anna's "cooling lagoons." Dominion's activities are not in compliance with the federal Clean Water Act which protects surface waters of the U.S.

The ill effects of high water temperatures in Lake Anna have been well documented. It is irresponsible of Dominion and the NRC to continue with the application to site new nukes on an already environmentally and hydrologically stressed watershed. Soon humans will find themselves competing with the nuclear reactors for water for their sustenance.

Finally, we are again facing the very real possibility of uranium mining and milling in VA. There are uranium deposits in Orange, Madison, Fauquier and Pittsylvania Counties. The drive by Dominion and other utilities to build new reactors has made uranium mining attractive once again after a twenty-five year ban. Mining and milling of uranium has never been attempted in a wet climate like ours. Furthermore, the history of mining and milling of uranium in our western states is one of high cancer rates and abandoned radioactive tailings left to continue to disperse their radioactivity as the wind blows. The uranium fuel cycle from start to finish leaves a huge carbon footprint – in fact it takes two coal plants just to run the facility that processes the uranium into fuel rods in Kentucky – regardless of industry claims that there building nukes to save us from greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Dominion's plans for new nukes will associate it with the despoliation of our pristine rural VA counties if mining is allowed in the Commonwealth. It's time Dominion stop its quest for new nukes and instead commit to programs of conservation, efficiency in conjunction with renewables as they come on line.

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