

TALKING POINTS FOR VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tell the Atomic Safety & Licensing Board that Georgians want and DESERVE clean, safe energy choices such as energy efficiency, wind, solar, and biopower NOT any more risky nuclear reactors!

Please feel free to use this background information in your oral or written comments:

The Savannah River basin and nearby communities are already suffering; building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse.

Water Use & Supply:

-Vogtle's 2 existing reactors already require huge amounts of water with only 1/3 of what was withdrawn being returned to the Savannah River [~64 million gallons per day (mgd) withdrawal with consumption of ~43 mgd]. That's more water than many towns and cities in Georgia use!

-Doubling the number of reactors on site will only make this worse. This excess use of water threatens upstream and downstream municipalities, industries, agriculture, recreation, and aquatic species. If there is an extended drought—even a drought 20 or 40 years from now, severe consequences could occur.

-Increased water withdrawal will adversely affect the lake communities up river. The Lake Hartwell Association and others up river of Plant Vogtle are concerned that additional water withdrawals below the reservoirs will impact lake levels. The impacts to the entire Savannah River system need to be considered.

-Nuclear reactors use more water than other options. Energy generated from nuclear and coal plants requires much higher water quantities and has a much greater adverse impact on Georgia communities and water resources than wind, solar and many types of biomass energy and energy efficiency resources. As an example, the National Renewable Energy Lab forecasts the cumulative economic benefits from 1000 MW of wind development in Georgia to be \$2.1 billion, annual CO₂ reductions are estimated at 3 million tons, and annual water savings are 1,628 million gallons (<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy08osti/43485.pdf>).

Water Quality

-The water discharged from Plant Vogtle is already hotter than what is withdrawn; more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse. Temperature changes negatively affect the fish, plant, and animal life that depend on the river.

-The water intake systems for nuclear reactors can kill fish and fish larvae, among other organisms; having more reactors on site will only make this worse.

Nuclear Waste

-Highly radioactive nuclear waste (used nuclear fuel) has no place to be stored or disposed, nor is it likely that a 'solution' will be found in our lifetimes; building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse.

-Existing and future projected waste will remain onsite at Plant Vogtle for generations and generations, threatening indefinitely the health of nearby communities and the environment.

Security

-Nuclear plants are vulnerable to terrorist attack and sabotage; building more nuclear reactors will only make this situation worse by providing more targets.

-Plant Vogtle is also very close to the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, which stores a large portion of the nation's weapons grade plutonium and other dangerous materials. If an accident or successful terrorist attack occurred, the full impacts to human health and the environment in this region could be immense.

Human Health

-A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at just one of Vogtle's nuclear reactors it could cause 39,000 peak early injuries, 4000 peak cancer deaths, and 200 peak early fatalities with costs over \$60 billion; building more nuclear reactors will only worsen these terrible impacts and put more people's lives and health at risk. These communities are already heavily burdened by pollution in the area. (*Peak means highest calculated value from the study – it does not necessarily mean worst case.)*

For more information on nuclear power, see <http://www.cleanenergy.org/index.php?Learn-About-Nuclear-Plants.html>.

For the NRC's information on the Vogtle application process, see <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/vogtle.html>.