



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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February 6, 2004

Via U.S. Mail

Carolyn C. Shanks, President & CEO
Entergy Mississippi
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Gary J. Taylor, Chairman
Entergy Nuclear
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

RE: System Energy Resources, Inc.'s Application for an Early Site Permit to expand its Grand Gulf Nuclear Site in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

Dear Ms. Shanks and Mr. Taylor:

I am writing regarding System Energy Resources, Inc.'s (SERI) recent application for an early site permit to expand its Grand Gulf nuclear site in Claiborne County, Mississippi. This application is not only one of the first attempts by a nuclear utility to build new reactors in the U.S. in more than 25 years, but it also raises serious environmental justice issues for the nearby community. If approved, this permit will allow two additional nuclear power reactors to be built in a rural African American community already disproportionately impacted by nuclear utilities. For this reason, SERI should withdraw its permit application.

As you know, the Grand Gulf nuclear site was located in Claiborne County in the early 1970s. Although the site services the entire region, it was located in an African American community that remains segregated today. According to the 2000 Census, the county is 85% African American, compared to 36% in Mississippi. In addition, approximately 33% of its residents live below the poverty level, compared to 19% in Mississippi. This by itself raises environmental justice issues regarding the expansion of the Grand Gulf site.

Additionally, Claiborne County residents now live with a nuclear site that has accumulated highly radioactive waste without a long-term nuclear waste management plan. Local services and emergency response plans are currently considered inadequate to protect the community's health and safety in case of an accident. Adding two more nuclear power reactors to these conditions is not only illogical, it also exacerbates an existing disparate impact on an African American community.

Again, SERI should withdraw its permit application. As you may know, the Claiborne County NAACP has opposed the permit by resolution. At a minimum, we would welcome a response to our concerns, as well an opportunity to discuss this issue further. Please contact me by phone, (410) 580-5787, or by mail. We look forward to an opportunity to resolve this important environmental justice issue for Claiborne County.

Sincerely,


Janette Wipper
Assistant General Counsel

RESOLUTION ON GRAND GULF SITE EXPANSION
Claiborne County Chapter
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Whereas, the operators of Grand Gulf nuclear power plant in Port Gibson, Mississippi have proposed to expand the site for the construction of more atomic power reactors;

Whereas, the Grand Gulf site is already accumulating highly radioactive waste without an approved and scientifically valid long-term nuclear waste management site and more atomic power plants would make the radioactive waste problem for Claiborne County worse,

Whereas, the threat from acts of terrorism against domestic atomic power plants has already been acknowledged by the Federal Government including a State of the Union Address by President George W. Bush;

Whereas, the risks and consequences of an act of terrorism or a catastrophic accident are increased by building more atomic power plants at the Grand Gulf site;

Whereas, there is no confidence that the emergency plan for Claiborne County and other counties surrounding the Grand Gulf site is adequate to protect public health and safety;

Whereas, due to a lack of adequate distribution of local tax revenue from the plant, local government and emergency services are prevented from being fully prepared to protect the public health and safety and provide an adequate emergency plan;

Whereas, Grand Gulf has been less than responsible to the surrounding community, specifically Claiborne County, in hiring, training and promoting its citizens in that the majority of Grand Gulf's permanent workforce do not live in Claiborne County.

Whereas, there is a lack of an adequate epidemiological study of the health effects of radiation releases on the residents of Claiborne County from the routine operation of Grand Gulf atomic power plant and any new reactors;

Whereas, the need for more electricity from new atomic power plants at Grand Gulf is questionable at best;

Whereas, the cost for more electricity from new atomic power plants at Grand Gulf is unknown and speculative;

And Whereas, the risk to public health, safety and security associated with building more atomic power plants at the Grand Gulf site is disproportionately placed on the people of Claiborne County and the surrounding counties.

Be It So Resolved that the Claiborne County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is opposed to the expansion of the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant site in Port Gibson, Mississippi pending complete and total satisfactory resolution of the aforesaid issues.