



# Nuclear Watch Tower

“there must be some kind of way out of here . . .”

www.nonukesyall.org

NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH news | FALL 2012

## CAPTAIN'S LOG >> stardate 2012

NUCLEAR WATCH SOUTH marks 35 years of organizing grassroots direct action to stop nuclear power, nuclear weapons and nuclear waste! Founded in 1977 as **Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, GANE** changed its name in 2005 to Nuclear Watch South to reflect our expanding mission. Now, as the nuclear power industry makes its last-ditch stand in Georgia, our cause is more urgent than ever.



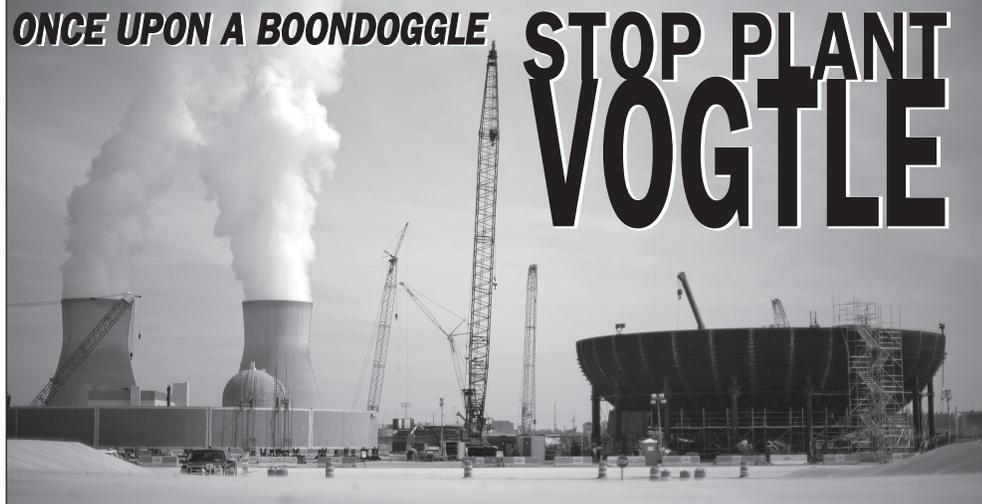
Nuclear Watch South board member Gloria Tatum as the Nuclear Industry — or Death Cult as she calls it. Our protest of Southern Company's July premiere of vanity movie **BIG BETS** at Atlanta's Fox Theatre made it into Creative Loafing.

We are delighted to be launching our new publication **NUCLEAR WATCH TOWER**. Solid info and timely action ideas with loads of photos and graphics will help spread the word about nuclear power and juice the creativity we need to close the nuclear age down safely.

People are waking up and plugging into safe energy awareness. They are joining the Stop Plant Vogtle campaign and coming to hearings and protests. Nuclear Watch South has signed up more than 10,000 new members through our informational website and distributed more than 35,000 stickers showcasing the nuclear issue! Hundreds of action e-mails are being sent through researched, targeted actions on **nonukesyall.org**.

Please support us in any way you can. Write letters, take to the streets, send tax-deductible donations!

*No nukes y'all!*  
Glenn Carroll  
Nuclear Watch South coordinator



AS THE REST OF THE WORLD turns to solar and wind for energy, Georgia finds itself stuck in an old game, building outmoded nuclear reactors with the public's money.

The whole world is watching to see what will happen with the Vogtle reactor projects. Regulators and the public are grappling with the impact of Fukushima while Georgia Power is steadily botching construction of the third and fourth reactors at Vogtle as they did with Vogtle reactors 1 and 2 in the 1960s, the 1970s and on into the 1980s.

Still 40 feet below grade, the Vogtle reactor project is already costing almost \$1 billion more than initial projections of \$14.6 billion. Georgia electric customers are being charged \$2 billion for up-front construction costs, and Southern Company and Georgia Power are seeking \$8.3 billion in zero-to-low-cost loans from the U.S. treasury. Amid rumors that they are not going to be able to land these tax-backed loans, for whatever reason — sluggish economy, slack power sales, the failure of solar startup Solyndra — Southern Company and Georgia Power boldly assert they can borrow the money from a bank. However, the private financial sector has not embraced one single reactor project, instead downgrading the credit rating of any company foolish enough to try building new nukes.

Shaw Engineering, sometimes called Stone & Webster, is the contractor building the Westinghouse AP1000 reactor design at Vogtle (*pronounced VO-guhl*). Vogtle construction has been cited with violations by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), literally from the ground up, for bad soil compaction studies which led to bad concrete mudmat and for rebar that wasn't installed according to design specs. Do you think that Georgia Power and Southern Company are ripping it out and starting over? No, they are suing Shaw and Westinghouse and forging full-steam ahead, seeking future waivers from the NRC. As Courtney Hanson from the Stop Plant Vogtle campaign says, “If they can't even make concrete right, how on Earth can they build a safe reactor?”

Citizens are rallying and pushing back. We are getting organized, testifying at hearings, staging protests at Southern Company, making pilgrimages to Shell Bluff to meet the people most affected by Vogtle radiation, educating people with hot new fact sheets and working to stop the flow of public money to this dangerous, unnecessary reactor project.

*Get involved! Send an e-mail to stop the loan guarantees at **nonukesyall.org**. Keep up with the action at **nonukesyall.org** and **stopplantvogtle.com**.*

# MOX

## THE OTHER BOONDOGGLE

SOMETIME BACK IN THE CLINTON administration Vice President Al Gore started negotiations with Russia to safeguard thousands of pounds of weapons-grade plutonium to keep it from being used as nuclear weapons. Nuclear Watch South joined legions of nuclear watchdogs to promote immobilization of the plutonium as waste, using its own waste product as a radiation barrier, but the U.S. government selected the expensive and risky path to re-manufacture plutonium into reactor fuel, called MOX for "mixed oxides of plutonium and uranium."

Almost 20 years later, Russia's program lays where it never got off the ground, Duke Power has cancelled its subscription to MOX, and a factory that is still not completely designed, has no customers, is \$4 billion over budget and 15 years behind schedule, still drains the U.S. treasury at Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina.

Nuclear Watch South has put legal pressure on the plutonium MOX program since it began seeking licenses for the fuel factory from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 2000. With help from Union of Concerned Scientists' Dr. Edwin S. Lyman and legal counsel Diane Curran we have been able to institute many significant safety upgrades and bring plutonium security issues to a public hearing which is still a work in progress.

Nearly half a billion dollars a year are being spent to build the MOX plutonium fuel factory. Since Duke Power pulled the plug on putting MOX plutonium fuel in its antique reactors, the U.S. Department of Energy has been looking for a new market and has settled its sights on captive, quasi-federal agency Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to accept its unwanted weapons-grade reactor fuel.

In September, Environmental Impact Statement hearings will be held on plutonium disposition, including MOX, and especially important are the hearings in Alabama and Tennessee where the question of using MOX in reactors at Browns Ferry (same vintage and type as Fukushima) and Sequoyah will be open for public comment. TVA is officially still undecided and we hope the recent resignation of TVA's CEO will help TVA to steer clear of loading this dangerous, experimental reactor fuel in their rundown, old reactors.



*The MOX plutonium factory at Savannah River Site is reportedly 60% complete. The contractors, Shaw Engineering, have received numerous violations for shoddy materials and unauthorized design changes.*

Please look at [nonukesyall.org](http://nonukesyall.org) for more information about plutonium, the dates and locations of public hearings and for a handy e-mail researched and written by experts which you can use to send comments to be included in the EIS record. The MOX EIS comment deadline is September 25, 2012.

— Glenn Carroll

## KNOW NUKES Y'ALL SUMMIT ~ Chattanooga, TN, June 28-30, 2012



*The Tennessee contingent introduces themselves at the regional KNOW NUKES Y'ALL SUMMIT in Chattanooga, June 28-30. Tennessee is confronted by myriad unique radiological problems: Oak Ridge nuclear weapons complex, radioactive waste incinerators and landfills, depleted uranium weapons and nuclear fuel manufacturing as well as some of the dirtiest reactors in the country. More than 100 activists from 15 states converged for a weekend of education, discussion and action. Former TVA chair S. David Freeman shared the keynote podium with Dave Lochbaum of Union of Concerned Scientists for the conference which was sponsored by 25 organizations including Nuclear Watch South. Presentations, photos and reports on the Know Nukes Y'all Summit are on [knownukesyallsummit.org](http://knownukesyallsummit.org). Read more about Tennessee nuclear issues on [nonukesyall.org](http://nonukesyall.org).*

**Donations to Nuclear Watch South — a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization — are fully tax-deductible**

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