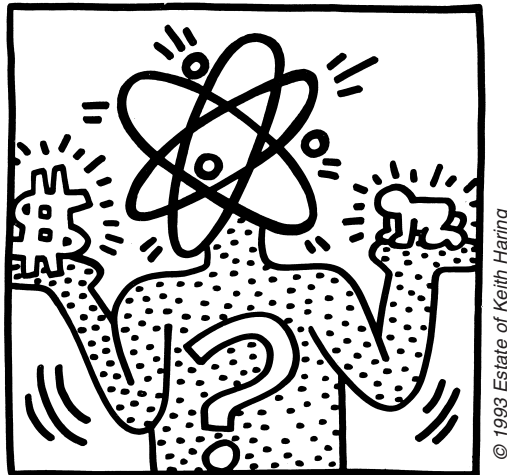


# Two New Nukes in Georgia?!



## WRONG QUESTION!!

**Southern Company's** top priority should be the safe and secure storage of existing nuclear waste instead of attempting to build two new nukes at Vogtle *with \$8.3 billion in tax-funded loans!*

**Nuclear Waste: No Solution in Sight** Nuclear waste is piling up at Vogtle at the rate of *30 tons a year* (for EACH reactor) with no prospects for moving the waste off-site any time soon. The highly radioactive waste is a tempting terrorist target and a serious long-term environmental hazard. There are better nuclear waste storage methods available to protect us from terrorism or other catastrophic radiation releases from nuclear waste. *For only \$7 billion we could place the entire U.S. high-level waste inventory in secure on-site storage.*

**Nuclear Welfare** You can tell Southern Company's confidence in nuclear is low because it isn't investing its own money. Costs for the first two Vogtle reactors soared out of control ... ballooning from the estimated \$600 million for four reactors to the actual *\$9.2 BILLION* for two! Georgia Power declared bankruptcy and we had the worst rate hike in history. In 2005 alone taxpayers handed \$13.1 billion to the nuclear industry. Now we are on the verge of handing \$8.3 BILLION in taxpayer-funded loans to Southern Company just for Vogtle. If Southern Company's own shareholders won't go there, why drag ratepayers and taxpayers down the nuclear path?

**Nuclear Power Still Not "Green"** Despite the nuclear industry's lavish marketing campaign, nuclear power is still not environmentally friendly, nor is it an effective antidote for climate change. To combat global warming, *300 new nuclear plants would have to be built in the U.S.* (1,500 worldwide). Optimists foresee a *20 to 30 year lead time* to bring a new nuke on-line. Even if we overlook nuclear's energy-intensive fuel cycle, extreme water requirements (Vogtle uses as much water as Atlanta — every day), routine radiation releases and potential for catastrophic meltdown, it is clear that nuclear is simply TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE to stop global warming.

**Let the Sunshine In** Southern Company has the opportunity to lead the world in a new direction for the new millenium. We can decentralize the power supply by deploying renewables at the residential level. Harnessing *abundant wind, solar and biomass energy will get our energy in step with nature* and the times while providing a healthy bottomline — for Southern Company AND for us taxpayers!

**Write Southern Company and say "NO NUKES Y'ALL!" to new nukes:**

Tom Fanning, Chairman, President and CEO

The Southern Company

30 Ivan Allen Jr. Boulevard SW, SC BIN#1500, Atlanta, GA 30308

# Say “NO NUKES Y’ALL!” to the Southeast as Nuclear Ground Zero<sup>1</sup>

## NUCLEAR WASTE: No Solution in Sight

- \* New nuclear plants mean more waste – adding to the existing 2,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste and 12 million cubic feet of low level radioactive waste produced annually at 103 U.S. reactors.
- \* No country in the world has a plan to deal with existing (let alone new) nuclear waste
- \* Nuclear waste is radioactive for millions of years

## DAWN OF THE DEAD: Nuclear Plants Are Still Not “Green”

- \* New nuclear plants make no sense for addressing climate change — we would need 300 in the U.S. and 1,500 worldwide to barely make a dent in greenhouse gas emissions
- \* Nuclear power is not emissions-free. The nuclear industry uses fossil fuels for uranium mining, milling and enrichment, plant construction, and waste storage
- \* Nuclear reactors require profligate amounts of water for cooling (Vogtle uses as much each day as the City of Atlanta) and the water is lost as water vapor, a *greenhouse gas*
- \* Devoting scarce resources to nuclear takes away from more sensible climate change solutions – conservation, energy efficiency and renewables like wind and solar

## NUCLEAR WELFARE: Taxpayer Robbery

- \* The nuclear industry has received tens of billions in federal subsidies since it began in the 1940s, yet it remains unable to compete economically on its own
- \* New nuclear power plants mean billions more in handouts of taxpayer money to the nuclear industry — the 2005 Energy Policy Act included \$13.1 billion for the nuclear industry
- \* The actual cost of the existing Vogtle reactors was much higher than original industry estimates — estimated cost of 4 nuclear reactors at Vogtle - \$600 million; actual cost for ONLY 2 - \$9.2 BILLION<sup>2</sup>
- \* Georgians experienced the worst rate hike EVER after this plant was constructed
- \* Despite billions in federal taxpayer monies, Southern Company’s plan for new nukes at Plant Vogtle will cost Georgia taxpayers even more — GA Public Service Commission voted to allow Georgia Power (Southern Company subsidiary) to charge its customers \$51 million for just *studying the nuclear option*

## BIRTH DEFECTS & CANCER: Nuclear Power is Bad for Your Health

- \* The National Center for Health Statistics shows a 70% increase in infant deaths in Burke County in the years following Vogtle’s start-up (the statewide Georgia infant death rate DROPPED by 1.7%)
- \* Dr. Alice Stewart’s and ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) have established that radiation is linked to incidences of birth defects and genetic damage which may also be inherited by future generations OF ALL SPECIES of plants and animals. Defects and mutations have been locally documented following the meltdowns at Chernobyl (Ukraine) and Three Mile Island (PA)
- \* Nuclear plants threaten our water supply and routinely release radiation - no level is “safe”

## NUCLEAR TERRORISM: National Security Risks

- \* Nuclear reactors produce plutonium which can be used for nuclear bombs and therefore pose an unacceptable risk
- \* New US nuclear reactors send the wrong message abroad. The “peaceful atom” is a myth already exposed by the weapons programs of India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea and Iran
- \* The 9/11 Commission noted in June 2004 that al Qaeda’s original plan for September 11 was to hijack 10 airplanes and crash two of them into nuclear plants
- \* US nuclear power plants have performed poorly on terrorist attack training exercises even though plant workers knew about the exercises BEFORE they occurred

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<sup>1</sup> 30 of 33 new nuclear power plant proposals are for the southeast US

<sup>2</sup> Georgia Public Service Commission, March 2000