

•GANE•



Georgians Against Nuclear Energy

P.O. Box 8574, Station F

Atlanta, GA 30306

688-7665

THE GAINSAYER

GEORGIA'S NEWSLETTER FOR A NON-NUCLEAR FUTURE

August
81

RATE HIKE UPDATE

Georgia Power Says "Shhh!"

On Monday, July 6, the Georgia Power Company (GPC) went before the Public Service Commission (PSC) and requested in a formal motion that governmental, consumer and environmental groups like GANE, Ratewatch, Georgia Poverty Rights Organization, and the Dept. of Defense not be allowed to intervene in the upcoming rate hike hearings, at which GPC is asking for a rate increase of \$346.3 million. It was the company's contention that according to the new law established by the passage of Senate Bill 29, all consumer groups should be represented by the state Consumer's Utility Counsel (CUC) so that there will not be duplication of any one testimony. The Commission decided that we all should be allowed to intervene, thus over-ruling the company's motion.

In another case, the CUC and the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization (GPRO) filed a motion stating that the GPC had not complied with state law which required them to submit certain essential historical data to the PSC for the case. The intervenors contended that they needed that information in order to present their case. CUC and GPRO asked the PSC to either dismiss the rate case entirely or give the company 10 days to submit the necessary information. The Commission decided the next day to require the GPC to submit the requested information within 2 weeks which is viewed as a victory for the CUC, GPRO, and the consumers of this state.

In another related issue, the PSC has ruled unanimously to "take whatever action is necessary" to make public information contained in a study of GPC's future generating plans. The study was conducted by the company at the request of the PSC in order to determine whether or not the company needed to continue to sell an additional \$325 million in stocks and bonds. The GPC obtained a court order which makes this report only available to the PSC and the CUC. It appears that the company has something to hide or else they would not seek to keep it so secret. Now is the time for us to take some type of **ACTION**. We believe, as do many other individuals and organizations around the state, that the GPC is currently not utilizing a least cost energy strategy because they continue to build unnecessary and unaffordable electric generating plants, while not focusing more on conservation and cheaper, safer alternatives.

Last winter, Billy Lovett (PSC commissioner) requested that the governors office appropriate \$100,000 to the PSC budget so that an external study could be performed to determine whether or not the company was using the cheapest forms of generating electricity. The money was denied, but that does not mean we should not show public support for such a study now.

We urge everyone to write to Governor Busbee and the PSC and tell them you do not believe we are being offered the lowest cost form of energy from our only electric company and that a study should be performed immediately to compare our present energy path with what are known to be much cheaper alternative paths.

D.F.

JANET LOWE

A Remarkable Woman

Early in the morning on July 11th, Janet was struck down and killed by a hit and run driver while biking home from her late night work at the Little Five Points Community Pub. She was a woman whose incredible conviction, commitment, integrity, strength, and understanding will continue to inspire those of us who knew and worked with her. Her entire life was dedicated to a lifestyle that encompassed environmentalism, self-sufficiency, energy efficiency, community involvement, participation in political process and encouraging personal expression from all those she knew and met.



Calvin Burgamy

Some of her many contributions to GANE included participation in civil disobedience at Barnwell, South Carolina; lobbying legislators in Washington, D.C., and the State of Georgia; staging press conferences and writing press releases; organizing rallies; testifying at hearings (PSC, DOT, DOE); intervening at rate cases and bond hearings; authoring many articles for the *Gainsayer*; authoring a book on nuclear power and its alternatives in Georgia for the nuclear power hearings; and constantly soliciting new members into joining GANE and encouraging existing members into increased participation. This remarkable woman will be intensely missed but the work she started will be continued.

J.K.

A memorial fund for Janet Lowe has been established to perpetuate Janet's contributions. Make checks payable to:
Janet Lowe Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 5286, Atlanta, GA 30307

nukes in the news

U.S. orders 44 nuclear plants to test toughness of reactors

The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — Federal officials, concerned about the steel fuel containers in some older nuclear reactors, have ordered 44 plant operators nationwide to test the toughness of their reactor vessels.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials said Tuesday that they are concerned that the steel fuel containers may be weaker than anticipated and may be more vulnerable to cracks.

A severe overcooling and repressurization accident involving a weak vessel in one of the pressurized-water reactors could cause the reactor vessel — which contains the radioactive fuel rods used to produce heat and electricity — to crack like a hot glass jar thrust into cold water, officials said.

The NRC is particularly concerned about 14 older plants, including the Maine Yankee reactor, the H.B. Robinson S.E. reactor in Hartsville, S.C., and the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 1 in Seneca, S.C. Also on the list is unit No. 1 of the Three Mile Island plant near Harrisburg, Pa. That is the companion unit to the No. 2 reactor that was shut down following the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979.

Atlanta Journal 7/6/81

Half of U.S. Nuclear Plants Miss Deadline on Warnings

About half the country's atomic power plants have missed a July 1 deadline for installation of emergency warning systems to alert the surrounding population in the event of a serious accident, according to Federal officials. Some of the work is reported under way.

The delay has prompted charges by the House energy subcommittee and others that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was failing to enforce its own emergency planning requirements, adopted last August in response to the March 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

N.Y. Times 7/5/81

Steven Ford Joins President's Daughter to Campaign Against Nuclear Power

From Press Dispatches

Steven Ford, ex-president's son, said he is joining forces with a president's daughter to campaign against nuclear power. The 25-year-old Ford was interviewed Thursday on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America." In what he termed "a generation gap" with his father, former President Gerald Ford, the younger Ford said he had decided to go public with his opposition to nuclear power. Ford said he had discussed his decision with actress Patti Davis, President Reagan's daughter, who has spoken at several anti-nuclear rallies in California. Ford said he was worried because the new Diablo Canyon nuclear plant near his home in San Luis Obispo, recently licensed for operation, lies on a geological fault. "There are better places to build nuclear power plants," he told interviewer David Hartman. "If the people in this country let the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) license it, then they'll be able to license one anywhere."

Atlanta Constitution 7/17/81



Losing a nuclear nightmare

(Ed. Note — This article appeared in the June 19th issue of the *Athens Observer* and has been condensed. Gary Appelson is a member of A.C.E. (Athenians for Clean Energy))

Last week, for a fleeting moment, the world stopped. All humanity's collective fear and anxiety turned toward Iraq as newspapers around the globe flashed the message, "Iraq's Nuclear Reactor Bombed by Israeli Jets." Hidden below our collective consciousness was the unspoken realization that atomic weaponry capability is slowly creeping around the world.

In the week that has ensued, the American public has already been desensitized to this awesome event. The news media has successfully declassified the event to "last week's headlines," thereby making room for today's news events.

The bombing has been transformed into an "issue."

For those who understand the risks associated with nuclear power there is no issue. The culprit is not a nation, but a technology. The bombing was the visible results of the world-wide spreading of atomic power. Nations are investing in nuclear power so they can develop nuclear weapons. A country does not need a Manhattan Project to develop nuclear bombs. It merely needs to knock on the doors of the nuclear industry, buy certain nuclear technologies, promise to use those technologies for peaceful purposes, and then use them to build bombs.

... And so, under the guise of the "peaceful atom," the nuclear industry and the governments subsidizing it are making a nuclear weapons capability available to an already troubled and distrustful world.

The materials, knowledge and equipment and organizations relevant to making bombs are inherent in a civilian nuclear industry. They are interchangeable and interdependent for peaceful or violent purposes. Any nation with a high level of civilian nuclear power technology is invariable on the threshold of nuclear weapons.

The Israeli bombing was a gift to the world, a loud warning about the worldwide spread of nuclear weaponry. It was a reminder that nuclear weapons flow directly from nuclear power. It was a clear example of humanity's inherent distrust. It was a statement about the failure and ineffectiveness of the international "safeguarding" institutions. To accept this gift we must act on the events. The peoples of the world must say no to nuclear power and stop putting machine guns in the hands of infants.

As Americans, we bear a special responsibility for the current threat of a worldwide nuclear arms race. The U.S. has been responsible for the widespread adoption of nuclear technology.

It is time to act. Demand that your representative in Congress become aware of these problems and work toward America's denuclearization. Take a creative stand against nuclear power. If you own stock in GE or Westinghouse, voice your disgust with their nuclear exporting policy. Demand that Georgia Power stop building unnecessary nuclear plants.

Nuclear weapons proliferation is the dominant threat of our age. It cannot be controlled until nuclear power is phased out. As Jacques Cousteau said before the U.N., "... human society is too diverse, national passion too strong, human aggressiveness too deep-seated for the peaceful and the warlike atom to stay divorced for long. We cannot embrace one while abhorring the other; we must learn, if we want to live at all, to live without both."

G.A.

The Georgia Solar Coalition

S·O·L·A·R CALENDAR

Throughout August. *The Georgia Solar Coalition is sponsoring 11 workshops around the state to tell homeowners how they can put solar to work. For more detailed information and for the locations please write the Georgia Solar Coalition at P.O. Box 5506, Atlanta, GA 30307 or call (404) 525-SOLR.*

Sun. 8/26 7:30 p.m. *Movable Insulating Window Shades* Sponsored by the Georgia Solar Coalition at Standard Federal Savings & Loan, 1149 Ponce de Leon near Moreland. Free and open to the public. Call GSC, 525-SOLR for more information.

9/14-16 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Short Course on Passive Solar Design* will discuss the details of passive solar design, performance of passive houses, the economics of passive solar and marketing the passive solar home. \$115 members, \$120 non-members. For details and registration, call the GSC at 525-SOLR.

9/26-27 *Learn & Build Course: Breadbox Water Heater.* Call GSC for information. 525-SOLR.

Tue. & Thur. 10/7-29 7:00-9:30 p.m. *Tools & Wood! Basic Carpentry.* Call GSC, 525-SOLR.

10/8-9 *Passive Solar and Earth-Sheltered Housing Conference.* Northwest Atlanta Hilton. For information contact Gayle Wells, P.O. Box 6282, University, Alabama 35486/(205) 348-4523.

N.R.C. (Never Really Considered)

In October, 1978, the coordinator of GANE requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to re-examine whether there was any need for the construction of the Vogtle Nuclear Plant. At that time Georgia Power had admitted that its generating capacity far exceeded the amount necessary to assure adequate electricity for Georgians. In April of 1979, the NRC replied that based on Georgia Power's current construction plans and projections of peak demand and growth of demand, Vogtle would be necessary in the late 1980s. In May of 1979, GANE advised the NRC that it has misinterpreted the earlier request and further advised that the data on which the NRC had made a preliminary denial was inaccurate and outdated. GANE submitted more recent data from the 1979 Georgia Power rate case which demonstrated Vogtle was unnecessary. This reconsideration was again denied by the NRC in November of 1979.

By September of 1980, Georgia Power had further reduced its estimates of the growth of demand and the peak demand. It recognized that its building program would yield substantial excess capacity (as GANE originally contended in September, 1978). Georgia Power began to make additional plans to sell portions of the its plants out of state. GANE submitted this new data to the NRC; earlier this month, the NRC again denied the GANE request. This time it used a different methodology to compute the need for power. The original methodology would have not justified denying GANE's application! The moral of the story seems to be that you can't win before the NRC. When Georgia Power's own projections demonstrate the Vogtle plant is unnecessary for Georgians, the NRC changes its methods so as to avoid hearings regarding whether nuclear plants are needed in Georgia.

With Janet Lowe's death still ranging through their minds, a number of GANE members and close friends found themselves together at the Rhodes Theatre last Thursday to see *No Nukes*. Thankfully and I think appropriately the movie supplied some necessary relief from the emotional drain we had endured. In addition the movie gave us the visual, musical and communal handle we were trying to find in the zombie-like days that followed that Saturday with the funeral and, one might say, the "callous" order of the workplace.

We need to think of ourselves and our commitment to end the nuclear nightmare now every bit as seriously as we did the temporal implications of Janet's death early last week. When Jackson Brown sang "Running On Empty" halfway into the movie it struck me in one of those emotionally sheltered places you think are un-touchable. But that was what it must have felt like so often for Janet, knowing the pain and frustration and still having to keep on.

This is in great part what Janet's political life was about. Few people can fathom the drudgery of preparing testimony in a tactful, yet somewhat impassioned way to be read to those bent on profit who will coolly dismiss it as irrelevant. Janet accepted this responsibility and worked hard to stagger, let alone alter the pro-nuclear-mentality of Georgia Power. In the crude fashion that life was emptied from her it has nevertheless filled many of us with new purpose.

It is important to understand as well the exemplary life-style framed within Janet's life's work. By unilaterally moving into a lower income neighborhood, buying, renovating and efficiently energizing an old home there, and tending her own garden, she truly embodied the struggle and challenge of this age of scarcity. This she did quietly and determinedly. Not one of us who ever came close to her could feel untouched. Again, with our senses heightened as tragedy always insists, we must continue to try and live out that austere rich life which Janet typified.

Community, consensus, individual responsibility, political action: such terms represent Janet's concerns. Concerns that her memory will assuredly amplify. In a community we all live with the spectre of death, injury or psychological trauma precisely because we are so interconnected. This is as it should be. Community sustains us and gives us the strength to achieve what others who merely take from the community can never comprehend. In no small way it was the sense of community that gave such life to Janet.

Because we care about each other and we hope to understand the consequences of our actions in this community many of us support the process of consensus; i.e. that there can be no advance without a commonly agreed upon purpose. Janet believed in this process, as it operated in GANE and was reflected at the Pub and Sevananda. How often was it that even as the hours wore on she would patiently persist in clarifying a point so that it might communicate better?

Individual responsibility and political action. Straight-forward and unequivocal, Janet's life was her own. She faced up to the fear that comes from attempting to realize one's visions and made her life work. In so doing this became a statement of vanguard political action. As a mark of her compassion she would never ask anyone to measure up, only to examine themselves and their world.

How much clearer
it all must be
to her
now
how much lighter
the wait
of time
that is all
now

STATEWIDE MEETING

7/18/81

On Saturday, July 18, eleven folks met for our regular statewide meeting. The following issues in brief were discussed:

1) The folks in Athens are gearing up for a debate with a spokesperson from the Westinghouse Corp. to be held on July 22 at the Brumby Rotunda on the UGA campus, at 8:00 p.m. This is one of a series of debates the Westinghouse Corp. is holding around the country as part of their campus crusade to promote nuclear power.

2) In discussing the rate hike, it was agreed that there would be some statewide effort to write letters to the governor and the PSC to continue to push for funds to perform a study to see if Ga. Power is utilizing a "least cost energy strategy" in providing the citizens of Georgia with electricity.

3) Contacts have been made in Waynesboro and it was agreed that we would put another ad in the Waynesboro *True Citizen* newspaper in order to notify interested folks that there is a coalition of groups organized to "STOP VOGTLE".

4) A need to pursue more legal approaches to stopping Vogtle was suggested; an effort will be made to seek lawyers from around the state to work with us.

5) Discussion of our efforts to publish a book on Vogtle was revived in the sense that perhaps we could dedicate our efforts and the book to Janet Lowe. Athens folks will discuss it further as needed information is extremely difficult to obtain.

6) We need to put more emphasis on Plant Hatch at Baxley. No concrete actions were decided upon, but all in attendance agreed to work more on information sharing.

7) Next meeting will be in Macon on September 12 at 10:00 a.m.
D.F.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. 8/3 7:30 p.m. Media & Publicity Committee Meeting. Calvin Burgamy's, 535 Page Ave., 378-5885.

Thurs. 8/6 Gane and Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) will sponsor a city-wide mass leafletting campaign focussing on Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day and the Nuclear Arms Freeze as well as related activities. **People are needed to pass out leaflets anywhere and EVERYWHERE in the city on this day.** If you have 2 hours, 1 hour or any time at all that day to pass out leaflets, PLEASE call Danny at 688-7665 or Leslie at 377-6516.

Thurs. 8/6 12:15 p.m. Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) will be holding a service at the Trinity Methodist Church, 265 Washington St. (downtown) in memory of the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. For more information call CALC at 377-6516.

Thurs. 8/6 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting to set policy and allocate money. All members are welcome. Inman Park Library.

Sun. 8/9 10:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way off N. Druid Hills Rd. The morning service will focus on halting the nuclear arms race. The public is invited. Call 634-5134.

Sun. 8/9 7:00 p.m. at the Universalist Unitarian Church, GANE and CALC and the church will host a pot luck supper (bring a dish) to be followed at 8:00 by the film "Hiroshima." Discussion of the nuclear arms race today will follow. Call Danny at 688-7665 or Leslie at 377-6516.

Mon. 8/10 7:30 p.m. Education Committee Meeting at Linda Jones', 1050 Austin Ave., Apt. B. 522-4169.

Tues. 8/11 7:30 p.m. Political Actions Committee Meeting at Danny Feig's, 1130 Alta Ave., 688-7665.

Sat. 8/15 Gainsayer Deadline. Submit articles to Jim Kulstad, 158 Flora Ave., 588-9455.

Tues. 8/18 7:30 p.m. Radiation Study Group. Radiation Ecology: Major routes of contamination, behavior of radionuclides in food chains, methods of sampling. At Jim Rutenber's, 784 Clemont Dr., N.E., 874-5143.

Wed. 8/26 7:30 p.m. Coordination Committee Meeting at Carol Stangler's, 362 Sterling Str., 525-5487.

Thurs. 8/27 7:30 p.m. Gainsayer Mailout at Dennis Hoffarth's. Come join in the fun. 1402 N. Morningside Dr., 874-8918.

8/31 through 9/4 9:00 a.m. Rate Hike Hearing. Intervenors and the public present their case against Georgia Power. Be there! Public Service Commission Hearing Room, 244 Washington St., (across from the City Hall parking lot).

Coming Up Soon: The G.A.N.E. "Retreat" which was postponed due to the tragic death of one of our active members will be rescheduled for some time in the near future.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (N.R.C.) has invited public comment on a proposed rule that high level radioactive waste stored in an underground repository be packaged so that leakage be prevented for the first 1,000 years and retrievable for 50 years. Send comments to: Secretary, U.S. N.R.C., Washington, D.C. 20555, Attn: Docketing & Service Branch. The deadline for comment is November 5. For more information contact Margaret Roach at 758-1773.

HELP WANTED

- People needed to help sift through GANE files and articles in order to establish an organized library. A very educational and fun time guaranteed. Call Danny at 688-7665 or Alvin at 873-3035.
- People are needed to pass out leaflets anywhere and everywhere in the city on Thursday, August 6 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The leaflets will focus on the bombings as well as a nuclear arms freeze. If you have any time at all (before work, at lunch, after work, etc.) please call Danny at 688-7665.

THE GAINSAYER DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF THE MONTH.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles, letters, artwork
— please write, paste or TYPE your submissions on 8½ x 11 sheets —

STAFF: Jim Kulstad, Suzanne LeBlanc, Michael Charles
Alice Teeter

CONTRIBUTORS: Gary Appelson, Danny Feig, Margaret
Roach, Ward Silver

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Send check payable to G.A.N.E., P.O. Box 8574, Station F, Atlanta, Georgia 30306.

"give us a ring"

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* Have answering machines — please leave messages