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AIR PROTECTION BRANCH

July 31, 2009

Mr. James Capp  
Branch Chief, Air Protection  
Georgia EPD  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120  
Atlanta GA 30354

Dear Mr. Capp:

RE: Longleaf Power Station

I was an attendee at the Q & A and hearing in Blakely this past week. Having not attended prior meetings, I was taken aback by the cavalier attitude of the EPD spokesman. (I didn't catch his name – it wasn't you was it?) Rather than act and respond as a representative of the people (that is the job of a government agency, particularly one whose division includes the key word "Protection"), I felt that I was listening to a shill for LS Power.


Of all the people speaking at the hearing, I only heard one person (a representative of the Early County Economic Development group making his token, cursory comments) speak out in favor of the Longleaf facility. There were, in fact, many who were strongly opposed. Their concerns, from the poisonous emissions in the air to the mercury pollution of rivers and streams, were not only personal concerns but issues affecting the vitality of region as a whole. Without exception, the EPD rep responded as if he was, in fact, an employee of LS Power. There was no evidence at all that he understood and shared the well-articulated concerns of the citizens in attendance. Never did a comment or question cause him to pause and/or show any sign of interest on his part of empathizing with the points being made and show a willingness to re-think/reconsider the EDP position with regard to a particular issue, supported by empirical evidence, that questioned the EDP position(s).

A case in point. I questioned the gentleman if Longleaf was designed as a state-of-the-art coal burning facility, utilizing the best means for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and other particulate emissions (referred to by him as BAT – "Best Available Technology") and he responded, "Yes". I then asked him if (and if not, why) the gasification process was: a) to be employed at Longleaf, and b) if not, was it ever considered being used. His response was simply "No" with no additional comment. I then read him a statement from George Muntean, staff scientist at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, noting, "Coal gasification offers one of the most versatile and clean ways to convert coal into electricity...If we plan to use our domestic supply of coal to produce energy, and do so in a way that does not intensify atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, gasification is critical." The EDP rep's response to my reading was, "Thank you". He then moved on to other questions. He obviously did not want to explain to the public why the Longleaf facility was not doing everything available (using BAT) to insure the safety and health of the denizens of Early County and surrounding areas.

The gasification issue is at the heart of credibility of the EPD as it relates to its viability and fulfilling its public responsibility. The issue of lying to the public is not only a violation of public trust, it is fraud (i.e you state that all technology was considered in issuing your permits, but it wasn't). In the shadow of this, extending or renewing the air quality permit to LS Power to build the Longleaf plant would not only be a continuation of covering up the facts, but of fraudulent behavior and complicit conflict of interest – not in service to the public.

There were numerous other issues raised at the meeting and hearing which serve to reiterate and reinforce my position that the Longleaf Power facility would be a threat to the health and well-being of the public and should not be built. Please do the right thing. Do not extend and/or renew the permit(s) to LS Power to construct the plant.

Sincerely,

  
Don Lambert  
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Damascus GA 39841  
229.725.3172

**DON LAMBERT**