

# PLANT VOGTLE

## *Environmental Injustice*

*Since 1987 Plant Vogtle has generated electric power. Today, two nuclear reactors operate at the site on the banks of the Savannah River in Burke County, Georgia. Now Southern Company wants to add two more nuclear reactors. But the two existing reactors have placed an unfair burden on residents. More would be an environmental injustice. Here's why.*



### *Unclean*

Even during routine operations, all nuclear reactors put harmful radioactive poisons into the air and water. In one year, Plant Vogtle released over 900 Curies of radioactive pollutants into the air and water.<sup>(a)</sup> (See table) During the last two decades, average radioactivity levels in drinking water, river water, and sediment near Plant Vogtle have increased.<sup>(b)</sup>

***Plant Vogtle Radioactive Releases in 2007<sup>(a)</sup>***

<b>Radionuclide</b>	<b>To Air</b>	<b>To Water</b>
<b>Tritium</b>	<b>71 Curies</b>	<b>756 Curies</b>
<b>Fission Gases</b>	<b>88 Curies</b>	

**Reference documents used in this fact sheet**

- a Southern Company's annual report on its nuclear plants, *Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report for 2007* (NL-08-0668)
- b "Radioactive contamination from Vogtle reactors 1 and 2 and changes in health status within a 40 mile radius," Mangano, (2007)
- c "Environmental Injustice in Siting Nuclear Power Plants," Alldred and Shrader-Frechette, *Environmental Justice*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (2009)
- d "Petition for Intervention," Early Site Permit, Docket No. 52-011, Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, 12/11/2006

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# VOGTLE 3 and 4?

## *It's Not a Done Deal!*

### *Unhealthy*

Infant and cancer death rates in Burke County have risen since the two nuclear reactors began operating. The death rate rose sharply for all cancers, especially for African-Americans and children. Before Plant Vogtle startup, mortality among Burke County infants who died before their first birthday was 9% below the Georgia rate. After the reactors were operating, the county rate climbed to 47% above the state rate.<sup>(b)</sup> “Even when reactors operate normally, statistically significant increases in infant and fetal mortality near US reactors...suggest that (even without any accidents) those living near reactors could face higher health risks.”<sup>(c)</sup>

### *Unjust*

- ◆ The South has 26% of the US population but 36% of the nuclear reactors.<sup>(c)</sup>
- ◆ Four counties within 40 miles of Vogtle have areas which are persistently distressed and suffer from unemployment and/or poverty.<sup>(d)</sup>
- ◆ Most radiation standards are devised to protect only adult males.<sup>(c)</sup>
- ◆ Minority and poverty-level communities often include higher percentages of women and children, both of whom are more sensitive to radiation.<sup>(c)</sup>



### *Unplug Vogtle!*

*It's not too late!* Southern Company has not received a license to operate and the plant's design faces years of delays.

*Help stop the expansion of Plant Vogtle.*

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