Should GANE Change Its Name?

The discussion goes on: should our name continue to state that we are against nuclear energy, or should it state that we are for safe, energy, a nuclear-free future; etc.?

The article and questionnaire in last month's newsletter provoked some response, as did the informal poll at the February general meeting. From this group, 26 wanted to keep the name, and 14 wanted to change it. Several people were indifferent, and one person felt that the name should change only if our nature and approach changed.

Member's Respond: Change the Name

"I agree with the positive approach. So, just change the words and keep the acronym for recognition." Some ideas:

- Georgians for Alternatives to Nuclear Energy (GANE)
- Georgia's Alternative Energy Network (GAEN - pronounced GANE)

Other suggestions:

- Georgians for a Non-Nuclear Future
- Georgians for a Safer Future
- Georgians for a Nuclear-Free Environment

Member's Respond: Don't Change the Name

"We are against nuclear energy. If Georgia Power finds it a turn-off, great; let's turn off nuclear energy."

"What the hell is so wrong about being AGAINST something?? What brings people to anti-nuke organizations is the suspicion that something is threatening our lives (and our pocketbooks) and that something must be stopped... Let's act AGAINST nukes, while showing that there are alternatives."

"DON'T CHANGE THE NAME. You will only (1) confuse people, (2) suggest that you have watered down your opposition to nuclear power/weapons, and (3) lose a lot of money on stationary."

Keep thinking and discussing. At the April business meeting (see calendar for date and place) we will take a vote. According to our by-laws, if the majority votes to change the name, it must be voted upon again at the May business meeting. If the majority votes to keep the name, the issue dies until it is resurrected again.

If you have strong feelings either way, come to the April business meeting. Meanwhile, keep thinking, and express your opinions to the GAINSAYER. Danny (688-7665), or Carol (525-5487).

C.S.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

More Bad News From Capital Hill

The word around Capitol Hill is that the Defense Budget is not the only one to be increased, but that the Nuclear Budget will also receive increased funding when the total Reagan budget plan is unveiled. We can thank Secretary Edwards for that one.

And if the nuclear budget is to be increased... you guessed it — the solar budget is slated for drastic cuts. The Dept. of Energy's solar budget will be decreased by 10 to 20 percent in fiscal year 1981 and 50 to 70 percent in fiscal year 1982. Also, the director of the Office of Management and Budget has recommended zero funding in 1982 and resceding $121 million appropriated in 1981 for the Housing and Urban Development's Solar Bank Program. This program provides funds in the form of subsidized loans to low and moderate income people for investment and conservation and renewable energy.

Other bad news from Capitol Hill is that the Pennsylvania delegation has devised a scheme to bail out Three Mile Island. This scheme has not been introduced as a bill yet, but has been recommended by an eight member panel. The plan is to develop a federal corporation which will tax all utilities with nuclear power plants to accumulate enough money to clean up and rehabilitate Three Mile Island. Once this is accomplished, the corporation would continue collecting taxes from the utilities to build up a pool of $750 billion. This pool would cover any costs over $50 million which result from a nuclear power plant accident.

What this does essentially is remove all of the financial risk above $50 million in operating a nuclear power plant. And who will pay for this risk-protection... the ratepayer, of course. This is one more example that nuclear power will become more and more expensive and that the nuclear industry will find some way for either the ratepayers or the taxpayers to bail them out of a nuclear accident financial crisis.

One last thing of interest — and believe it or not, it's not bad news — is that the National Insti tute of Health along with several other state and federal agencies, will be seeking funds from Congress to conduct an environmental health study in a 60 mile radius around the Savannah River Plant. The March CANE General Meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the Savannah River Plant and this study.
Drug Raid Nets 14
At N-Power Plant

By The Associated Press

WAYNESBORO (AP) — Fourteen construction workers at Georgia Power Co.'s Vogtle nuclear generating plant were charged with drug law violations, herded into a school bus and hauled off to jail on Friday, officials said.

The arrests were part of a massive drug raid in Burke and Richmond counties, Burke County Sheriff Greg Coursey said. Thirty-two persons had been arrested by late Friday night, and deputies were still trying to serve two more warrants.

The arrests, on various drug charges, climax a four-month investigation, Coursey said. The probe included two undercover agents who bought marijuana, amphetamines, phenylcyclidine (angel dust) and Quaaludes from construction workers and other persons, he said.

Coursey said the investigation began when security personnel at the plant informed law enforcement authorities of a problem with drug sales and use at the site, where about 3,500 workers are employed.

About half of the undercover agents' buys were made on the site, Coursey said. The others were made in Waynesboro, other areas of Burke County and in Richmond County. A Georgia Power spokesman said the utility had no immediate comment on the arrests.

Atlanta Constitution, Feb. 14, 1981

FLORIDA P&L FACES FINE
For Violation of NRC Regulations

WASHINGTON — A federal inspector walked into the control room at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Florida last month and found a reactor running at full power without an operator at the controls.

The NRC staff has proposed a $40,000 fine against the reactor's owner, Florida Power & Light Company. Victor Stelle, of the NRC's office of inspection and enforcement, told the utility in a letter that "operator absence, distractions, or inattentiveness while assigned to the reactor controls" won't be tolerated by the NRC.

T/F Wall Street Journal

"First we have to convince the people that good health isn't everything."
Safe Energy Media Campaign Launched

Television and radio audiences in six states will soon begin to see and hear yet another advertisement concerning energy. This time, however, the theme will be about safe energy and the sponsors will not be from Mobil or Exxon, but from a public interest group called the Safe Energy Communication Council (SECC).

Comprising 13 national anti-nuclear, environmental and consumer media groups, SECC has launched a major media offensive against the nuclear industry's pro-nuclear media blitz broadcast earlier this year. Using free broadcasting time made available by individual stations under the Fairness Doctrine, the SECC spots will run in California, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire.

The SECC spots, which include five radio segments and five television ads, were produced by the non-profit Public Media Center in California. Lively and slick, the spots were tailored to responding to the themes developed in the industry campaign: the risk of accidents, foreign oil vs. nuclear power, Three Mile Island, and the availability of alternatives.

Each of the spots ends with a tag line with a voice over. "Don't get sold on nuclear power, we can't afford to pay the price!"

The SECC spots were produced on a budget of $20,000. They cost the industry's expenditures of $800,000 so far. A new industry campaign is expected later this year.

SECC spots are available for the cost of handling to any group or individual who is able to obtain response time or public service announcement arrangements with a local broadcaster. Cassettes may also be purchased at cost. Several local groups are now using the spots to counter locally-oriented utility ads.

For more information about the use of the Fairness Doctrine, dealing with broadcasters, monitoring the airwaves, or obtaining the SECC ads, write: Safe Energy Communication Council, 1536 16 Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Let us know if you see a SECC ad in our area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. 3/4 7:30 p.m. Media/Publicity Meeting at 353 Page Ave., call Kenny to confirm at 378-5885.

Thurs. 3/5 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting to decide priorities and allocate money. All members welcome. Highland Library, N. Highland and St. Charles Ave.

Mon. 3/9 7:30 p.m. Education Committee Meeting at Jeanne Shorthouse's, 507 Atlanta Ave., 627-4753.

Thurs. 3/12 7:30 p.m. General Meeting. Speaker: Bob Warren. Topic: Savannah River Plant; the Bomb Factory — A Look at the Weapon's Plant on Georgia's Border and Proposed Health Study on SRP.

Mon. 3/16 7:30 p.m. Political Action Committee Meeting at Manuel's Tavern, corner of North and N. Highland, 627-7250.

Thurs. 3/26 7:30 p.m. Coordination Committee Meeting at Danny Feig's, 1130 Alta Ave., 688-7665.

Sat. 3/28 March On Harrisburg — sponsored by the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment. For further information call 873-3035 or 373-6745.

Thurs. 4/2 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting. Inman Park Library, Little Five Points. Enter at side door.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Columbus Achieving Safe Energy (CASE) is a group of citizens working to achieve a safe and healthy environment for all of the residents of Columbus. We believe that the air we breathe and the water we drink should be as free as possible from toxic and harmful pollutants. We are concerned about the safety and economy of nuclear energy. We support the adoption of conservation practices and the use of appropriate technology using renewable energy sources. For more information contact: Robert Caine, 2000 Poplar Drive, Columbus, Georgia 31906.

HELP WANTED

☐ Artist(s) to design bumper stickers. Call Danny, 688-7665.

☐ People to call subscribers to Gainsayer whose subscriptions have elapsed. Call Dennis, 656-4512.

☐ New Energy on all Committees — Education, Media, Finance, Political Actions. If you have a skill and/or desire to get involved but don't know how, call Carol, 525-5487.

☐ Persons to coordinate the buying of books for the GANE literature table. Great opportunity to get involved. Call Carol, at 525-5487.

☐ People to place leaflets/posters in their neighborhood or place of work. Call Kenny 378-5885.

☐ People to help with Gainsayer and other mailouts. Call Dennis at 874-8918.

“give us a ring”

G.A.N.E. 688-7665*
Gainsayer 373-3648*
Finance 373-3648*
Education 874-8918
Political Actions 627-7250
Media/Publicity 378-5885*
Rallies, Protests & Demonstrations 622-4281
Alternatives Committee 378-6845

* Have answering machines — please leave messages

Notes from the February 5, 1981 BUSINESS MEETING

The Little Five Points Theatre has been made available for a benefit, probably to be held sometime in May. GANE endorses the Three Mile Island demonstration being held in Harrisburg, March 28 and may organize a support action here in Atlanta. An additional $1000.00 was appropriated to meet any need involved with opposing Senate Bill 39. Fact sheets on the bill were printed and are being distributed by members. Reorganization discussions are beginning in response to Janet Lowe's article in the February Gainsayer. Name change discussions are continuing. Channel 11 has donated a 40 second community commentary spot to GANE, a committee was formed to work on the script.

A/J/B
MARCH ON HARRISBURG
March 28, 1981

The working people of Harrisburg and around the country invite you to join us in observing the second anniversary of the accident at Three Mile Island. We demand:

- NO MORE THREE MILE ISLANDS: KEEP UNIT 1 CLOSED! NO DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WATER!
- SUPPORT THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA!
- JOBS FOR ALL: A SHORTER WORK WEEK AND MASSIVE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS!
- GUARANTEED ALTERNATIVE JOBS FOR NUCLEAR WORKERS AT UNION RATES!

Let's show the Reagan Administration and the nuclear industry that we are dedicated to working for safe energy and full employment. Join us in the streets of Harrisburg on March 28. We all live and work in Harrisburg!

LABOR IS WORKING FOR A NON-NUCLEAR FUTURE.

Initial Sponsors:
United Mine Workers of America
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment
Greater Harrisburg Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment
Louie Antal
President, District Five United Mine Workers of America

MEMBERS FORUM

Fusion Rock?

At the February General Meeting, I announced that GANE would be holding its second annual musical benefit at the end of March. We had the place, an old movie theater in Little Five Points. We had plenty of people to pull it all together, and I thought we had a band, the Sunbelt Millionaires. But life is full of surprises — the Sunbelt Millionaires backed out of the benefit because they are pro-nuclear!

Strange? Well, I thought so. The band manager had agreed to do the benefit weeks before and during our numerous conversations he never mentioned any potential problems. But according to our conversation the night before the Benefit Committee is to meet to start allotting the tasks, it is the band members who are pro-nuclear and they who refused to play. (The band manager did confess that the only reason he agreed to the benefit was for the exposure in Little Five Points and a chance to play in the old theater — not because he has sympathy for the anti-nuclear movement.)

Needless to say, after our conversation, I was in a state of disbelief; then anger. Any other excuse would have been forgiveable, but to say, after leading me on for weeks, that they refuse because they are pro-nuclear power was too much. I was bewildered because I believe that people have any social conscience at all, if they have looked at the issue of nuclear power, understand what we are fighting. If someone doesn’t know the issues, if they are not aware, then it’s better not to take a stand at all than to take the wrong stand. I suppose that my shock was because of a false assumption I had made that there is a connection between musicians and social awareness. I thought that MUSE, Musicians United for Safe Energy, had created an awareness of the issue of nuclear power, at least to other musicians. It seems I was wrong. At least I was wrong about the Sunbelt Millionaires.

Some people would say I should have known better. After agreeing to play our benefit last year, they waited to back out until the place and date had been secured; leaving GANE in a much more vulnerable position using their previous manager as the excuse to back out and never mentioning any pro-nuclear sentiment. Fortunately, the Urban Gorilla’s came to our rescue and the benefit was a great success.

And this year’s benefit is going to be great success also! We have postponed the benefit to May while we contact other bands, but this time we’ll make sure that the people who play our benefit share our concern over nuclear power and want to help shut ‘em down!

Gail Mitchell

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 8 1/2 x 11 sheets — Call 373-3648

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