T MAY BE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND the fast-moving drama of the slow-moving construction of Vogtle 3 & 4 if you look at the whole affair as a high-stakes betting game rather than the high-risk nuclear power project it appears to be. If you haven’t already, tune into the frequent financial headlines about the $10 billion debt ruining Georgia Power’s multi-national corporate partners building AP1000 reactors in Burke County, Georgia. Tom Ferguson, famous artist and Nuclear Watch South board president, has created the above infographic to help you understand the action-packed poker game: **VOGTLÉ BIG BET$ LOTTO!**
A most important detail of the game is that Georgia Power’s bets have been placed with public money: $2 billion collected from Georgia customers in an up-front nuclear construction tax on electricity bills (CWIP) PLUS $8 billion in taxpayer dollars loaned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Georgia Power emerges as the Big Winner posting startling annual profits more than 20% higher than before Vogtle construction! In light of the bankruptcies, Georgia Power says it is reviewing its options, including to stop construction of Vogtle.

Nuclear Watch South has filed a formal request before the PSC for an emergency public hearing and for a deadline to be set for Georgia Power to submit its plan forward. Georgia Power customers continue to pay $23 million per month to keep building an unneeded power project with an uncertain future. Today, we are still waiting for the PSC to exercise its authority and take hold of the situation.

Last week, the public came out strong to say “NOT ONE MORE CENT FOR VOGTLE” at the PSC’s 16th Semi-Annual Vogtle Construction Monitoring Review public hearing. Media coverage was strong and our message is beginning to show up in the narrative. The next public hearing will be on June 29 at 10AM at the PSC.

Follow the action and TAKE ACTION at nonukesyall.org.

— Glenn Carroll
EVERYONE KNOWS HOW
free-market capitalism works:
corporations invest money to make
and market a product, then keep the
profits.

But what if you could persuade
someone else to invest that money,
while still pocketing the profits?
Welcome to Georgia Power’s so-
called “Nuclear Renaissance.”

In 2009, Georgia’s General
Assembly passed the Georgia
Nuclear Energy Financing Act,
allowing Georgia Power and its
partners to charge ratepayers in
advance for the construction of two
new reactors at Plant Vogtle. It’s
called “CWIP” — “Construction
Work In Progress” — and it adds
an extra 10 percent to your power
bill every month. It’s the first
corporate welfare tax that bypasses
the government and goes straight to
a wealthy corporation.

Why? Because no financial
institution or investor will take a
chance on nuclear energy. The new
reactors are the first permitted in the
U.S. since 1979’s Three Mile Island
accident, which proved that the risks of
nuclear power are far more than financial.

So why are the General Assembly and
the Public Service Commission allowing
Georgia Power to invest someone else’s
money in a dangerous, obsolete technology,
at a time when the company’s generating
capacity is overbuilt, demand is declining,
and solar and wind power have become
dramatically cheaper?

Because this is the story of the nuclear
industry from Day One. It’s an industry
that never could have made a dime in profit
without cradle-to-grave subsidies from you,
the taxpayer.

Nuclear power was a byproduct of
government research in pursuit of the
atomic bomb during World War II. It was
the federal government that promoted
nuclear energy as “too cheap to meter”
and marketed “the peaceful atom” to a
population shocked by the destruction of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Uranium miners suffer disproportionately
high rates of cancer, so Congress voted to
compensate them with tax money, a tacit
admission that nuclear power requires
routine health sacrifices from its workers
even to exist.

No insurance company will insure a
nuclear facility, so Congress passed the
Price-Anderson Act, limiting liability
for the nuclear industry in the event of a
catastrophic accident. The U.S. taxpayer
effectively provides insurance for the entire
industry, including the mass evacuation and
emergency services such an accident would
require.

To rescue the nuclear industry
after decades in decline, Congress
passed the 2005 Energy Act,
which included loan guarantees to
encourage nuclear construction.
Georgia Power and its partners have
been awarded more than $8 billion
in zero-interest tax-funded loans for
Vogtle 3 and 4.

Like Vogtle 1 and 2, the new
reactors will suck as much water
from the Savannah River as the
cities of Atlanta, Savannah and
Augusta together consume each day,
with no compensation offered to the
state or its citizens.

Mounting piles of deadly
radioactive waste are left behind at
every step of the nuclear industry.
No safe solution yet exists, but the
Nuclear Waste Policy Act commits
the federal government to build a
permanent repository and move the
waste off-site.

In fact, because nuclear waste
must be kept safely contained for
thousands of years, the real total
cost of nuclear power is unknown.
The only thing we can accurately
track are the profits. And because taxpayers
bear so much of the cost, the profit margin
looks darn good.

Although Vogtle 3 and 4 are 39 months
behind schedule and $3 billion over budget,
the Public Service Commission guarantees
Georgia Power a 10.95% return on equity.
Georgia Power’s financial arrangement with
the state ensures that our CWIP money goes
straight to the profit column of the company
ledger. In the six years since breaking
ground for Vogtle 3 and 4, Georgia Power
has posted record profits, 15.9% in 2016.

Remember, we live in a state where our
elected officials practically lined up on the
border to defend us from tax-funded health
care — the kind they themselves enjoy.
But when it comes to tax-funded corporate
profits, their courageous stand for free-
market capitalism evaporates like steam
from a nuclear cooling tower.

— Stephen Wing
PERSEVERANCE FURTHERS.

This ancient Chinese wisdom has been my fall-back mantra since I got involved with GANE in 1981: Stick with it. Speak up. There’s so much to do.

Through 36 years of opposing nuclear power and weapons, after so many defeats and so many setbacks, and, yes, so many victories, I continued the mantra: Perseverance furthers. Keep working. Be steadfast. It’s not over until it’s over.

Now, amazingly, I believe our perseverance may be paying off. Time changes everything.

Could the current chain of economic events and bad decisions (see VOGLTE BIG BET$ LOTTO story) be the beginning of the end?

Will the wasteful nuclear reactors Vogtle 3 & 4 actually not be built?

It’s possible!!!

Once again we work — through myriad hearings, interventions, reports, press releases, and actions — to stop the nuclear madness.


Monthly meetings, strategies, public programs, actions, lobbying, testifying,


Always grassroots, always volunteer. No formal membership, no dues, just come out and get involved. No formal office, no paid staff. Operating on a shoestring budget and a wing-and-a-prayer.

For 40 years, with strong leadership and hundreds of invaluable volunteers, we haven’t given up. We receive a few small grants and depend on the bulk of our donations from you — our faithful supporters. Every dollar is appreciated and used wisely. And now, more than ever, we need funds to keep up the momentum to turn the corner and cancel Vogtle 3 & 4.

It’s possible!!!

Please give a donation now, large or small. Together we can do it!

No nukes y’all!

Carol Stangler
Longtime Member

Donations to Nuclear Watch South are fully tax-deductible and totally appreciated!

Mail to P.O. Box 8574, Atlanta, GA 31106 or donate on-line at www.nonukesyall.org