

Letters to the Editor

Cuba and the nuclear plant

I am trying to find information about an item of history from President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" era of the 1950s. At the time, I was 15 or 16 years old. My father was a lawyer and frustrated engineer, and he encouraged me to become a nuclear engineer.

The information I am trying to find is in regard to a nuclear power plant that was proposed for Cuba, in the eastern part of the island at the port of Santa Lucia.

The Matahambre copper mine was located in the area, and it used large amounts of electricity, which was supplied by a fossil fuel plant. This is why a small nuclear reactor was proposed for the area.

The mine was taken away from its owners soon after Fidel Castro came into power, and the plans for a nuclear plant faded away. I left Cuba for the United States in 1961 and became an electrical engineer. (I switched my goal from nuclear engi-

neering after hearing a college professor's lecture that nuclear power had no future!)

I have done as thorough a search as I could to find information about the proposed nuclear plant for Cuba, but I have come up empty. I ask *Nuclear News* readers if they remember details of that era and to share that information.

Adolfo Ponce de Leon
Atlanta, Ga.

Editor's reply: We wish you luck on your endeavor. We too have done a search, both online and in our *NN* archives, but have found nothing related to a nuclear plant proposed for eastern Cuba. (The nuclear plant in question is not the Juragua nuclear plant, which was under construction on the western side of Cuba but was halted in the early 1990s.) Perhaps our readers have some information. If so, please contact nucnews@ans.org, and we will publish the info in *NN*.



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