

An initial take: Two dodgy characters close to the Biden transition merit in-depth investigation

Mignon Clyburn, daughter of Rep. Jim Clyburn, has been named to the Biden transition team. She was on the [South Carolina Public Service Commission](#) at the start of the failed VC Summer nuclear reactor construction debacle in 2008. She was in on the initial PSC vote in 2009 for the give-away to corporate thieves pushing the project – SCANA/SC Electric & Gas – and ignored the formal intervention that we mounted (via Friends of the Earth). She has never been held accountable for her part in the waste of \$11 billion (and rising) on the nuclear project that was cancelled in 2017. One SCANA (taken over by Dominion Energy) boss has pled guilty to fraud and others remain under investigation by the federal attorney in South Carolina. Sadly, Ms. Clyburn, who we closely observed when she was on the PSC, was rewarded for her failure at the SC PSC and appointed by Obama to the Federal Communications Commission.

“SC’s Mignon Clyburn tapped for President-elect Joe Biden’s transition team”

The State, Columbia, SC, Nov. 18, 2020

<https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article247262904.html>

Ernest Moniz, [former DOE secretary](#) under President Obama and now being considered for the same position, is on the corporate board of the [Southern Company](#), a huge investor-owned electric utility in the southeastern US, with the largest component being Georgia Power. Southern Company is constructing two new nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle in Georgia (across the Savannah River from DOE’s Savannah River Site). The project continues but is a massive debacle, expected to cost something like \$30 billion if it comes to fruition. [Vogtle has \\$12 billion in DOE “loan guarantees,”](#) with \$8.3 billion of that coming when Moniz was secretary of energy. If the project fails, the public gets stuck with the bill. Likely not coincidence, Southern Company Charitable Foundation, Inc. donates to the [Nuclear Threat Initiative](#), where Moniz is the Co-Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

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