



Nuclear Energy Information Service

Illinois' Nuclear Power Watchdog for 26 years

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ACTION ALERT – HB2971 AMENDMENT 1 to Repeal Illinois Nuclear Moratorium

Legislation passed out of Illinois House Public Utilities Committee on April 2, 2008 that would overturn the long-standing Illinois prohibition on the construction of new nuclear reactors. The ban was written similar to the ban in California (where the Assembly rejected it), which, simply stated said that no new nuclear plants could be constructed without the pre-existence of a DEMONSTRATED method for the disposal of the high-level radioactive wastes. Obviously -- there is none at present. This might seem logical to most people; you know how to handle the wastes you create BEFORE you create more of it. Yet, if one recalls the lessons of the documentary, *The Corporation*, rationality, public concern and conscience is not the strong suit of sociopathy.

The nuclear industry has never met a law, regulation or agreement it was not willing to ignore or actively seek to overturn if the opportunity or need suited them. That is perhaps why NEIS has never been willing to "negotiate" with Exelon and its predecessors; negotiating anything with them is a lose-lose proposition. The only language they understand is to be defeated -- utterly, wholly and without compromise -- and in no uncertain terms. Like we did on the Com-Ed rate-hike of 1986; and the unneeded and costly Martinsville low-level radwaste dump from 1986-1991. And the Unicom/Exelon shareholders resolutions in 1999-2000. We did not back down; and we won those.

We ask that you begin to contact your State legislators (Senate and House) urging them to vote against ANY such proposal. If you do not know who your reps/senator are go to the Keep Us Connected website, and fill in the information requested:

<http://ga6.org/action/leg-lookup/search.html?mode=state>

SAMPLE OP-ED/TALKING POINTS ON HB.2971 AMENDMENT 1

To the Editors:

It's fitting that State Rep. JoAnn Osmond (R. 61st, Antioch) picked April 1st to introduce an amendment to the Public Utilities Act repealing the moratorium on new nuclear reactor construction in Illinois until a permanent disposal solution is first implemented for the dangerous, long-lived high-level radioactive wastes they generate.

It is baffling why the rush to lift the moratorium on new nuclear construction (HB 2971) when:

- 1.) there STILL is no demonstrated environmentally acceptable means of permanent geologic disposal of high-level radioactive wastes (the reason the moratorium was instituted), and new construction would add to the inventory with no place for the added wastes to go except onsite next to Illinois rivers;
- 2.) there is currently no need in Illinois for the extra power, which would be sold on the market benefiting Exelon Corporation while potentially inflicting all the negative aspects of nuclear power on the residents and ratepayers of Illinois; and
- 3.) new nuclear construction totally, deliberately undercuts and sabotages the recently passed Renewable Energy Portfolio standards legislation of 25% renewable energy by 2020 by denying the vitally needed market share that would help reduce costs of renewables via economies of scale.
- 4.) Finally -- since no new reactor is currently proposed, there is no need to rush.

It would seem that this is thinly veiled attempt to once again sabotage Illinois' pursuit of a renewable energy future -- one that does not have the risks of nuclear waste, accident, and high costs associated with it.

The California state Assembly just defeated two such unreasonable proposals. So should the Illinois legislature.

Follow the law -- get to 25% renewables and dispose of the 8,000 tons of high level radioactive wastes FIRST; then discuss lifting the moratorium.

Gratefully,