

PUBLIC HEALTH

& SAFETY

COMMITTEE

RESOLUTIONS



Public Health & Safety Committee
Resolution #09-38

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RE: OPPOSING THE CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO DESIGN, BUILD, OR OPERATE AN ADVANCED FUEL CYCLE RESEARCH FACILITY AT ILLINOIS SITES

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has been delegated the responsibility of implementing the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) program; and

WHEREAS, the GNEP program includes designing, building, and operating a nuclear fuel recycling center, an advanced "recycling" reactor, and an advanced fuel cycle research facility; and

WHEREAS, this program could include the transport, indefinite storage, and handling of irradiated ("spent") nuclear fuel containing uranium, plutonium and other radioactive isotopes; and

WHEREAS, Argonne National Laboratory and the Morris General Electric Operation Facility have been considered as potential sites to host these programs; and

WHEREAS, these facilities could be located within the 8-million-person Chicagoland region, in close proximity to Will County, the City of Chicago, and dense population centers in the western and southwestern suburban areas, and furthermore, could be situated among some of the most productive agricultural lands in the state; and

WHEREAS, Illinois law currently prohibits the construction of any new commercial nuclear power reactor prior to the demonstration and operation of a permanent deep-geological repository for the permanent disposal of high-level radioactive wastes; and

WHEREAS, many homes, schools, hospitals, parks, forest preserves, shopping centers and office complexes could be near to Argonne and Morris; and

WHEREAS, significantly increased quantities of radioactive materials are likely to travel on public roads, waterways, and railways through Will County and the transportation hub of northeastern Illinois as a result of the proposed GNEP program; and

WHEREAS, reprocessing facilities in West Valley, New York, Hanford, Washington, Augusta, Georgia, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Sellafield, England, are responsible for severely contaminating their nearby communities; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and U.S. Senator Richard Durbin have both expressed strong reservations about the GNEP program; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board, Lyons Township, and cities and villages including Burr Ridge, Darien, Hickory Hills, Indian Head Park, Lyons, Justice, Willow Springs, Bedford Park, Palos Park, North Utica, and the Bridgeview Park District, have adopted resolutions opposing the GNEP program, and other communities are considering similar resolutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Will County Board hereby opposes designing, building, or operating an advanced fuel cycle research facility, irradiated fuel reprocessing facility, and/or advanced power reactor at Illinois sites as considered by the Department of Energy through the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the position of Will County that any transuranic waste currently on site at Argonne National Laboratory should be transported to a facility where it can be properly contained.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Will County Board opposes any future plans to expand Argonne National Laboratory and [Morris] to include programs that may be detrimental to the health, welfare, and safety of surrounding residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Will County Board requests that plans for any and all future programs being considered for implementation at any and all DOE candidate sites and facilities be properly communicated in writing and delivered by Registered U.S. Mail to all representative bodies within a 25-mile radius of Argonne and [Morris], and that adequate notice of attendant public meetings regarding these plans should be given directly to the representative bodies within that radius at least one month prior to a meeting taking place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Francis Schwartz, GNEP PEIS Document Manager, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Nuclear Energy NE-5, DOE, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119, and to President Obama, U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Roland Burris, the members of the U.S. Congress representing Will County, Illinois, the Governor of the State of Illinois, the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, and the members of the Illinois House and Senate representing Will County, IL.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Preamble of this Resolution is hereby adopted as if fully set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

Adopted by the Will County Board this 19th day of February, 2009.

Vote: Yes___ No___ Pass_____ (SEAL)

Nancy Schultz Voots
Will County Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive