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From:
City of Bordentown

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MC2232

To:
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For Signature of:

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Description:
Support Decommissioning of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant and denial
of any request to extend current operational permits

Assigned To:
DLPM

Contact:
MARSH, LEDYARD (TAD) E

Special Instructions:

CITY OF BORDENTOWN

RESOLUTION 2004-33

SUPPORT DECOMMISSIONING OF THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND DENIAL OF ANY REQUEST TO EXTEND CURRENT OPERATIONAL PERMITS

WHEREAS, Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant is the oldest operating nuclear plant in the country and is now located in the second fastest growing county in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the operating permit for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant is set to expire in April of 2009 and the current owners, Exelon Corporation, will likely apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a twenty (20 year license extension; and

WHEREAS, Exelon Corporation must submit the license extension application on or before April 2004 and will announce their decision whether to apply by mid-February 2004, just a few weeks away; and

WHEREAS, the attacks of September 11, 2001 made it clear that all US nuclear power plants are seriously vulnerable to attacks from the air and the ground; and

WHEREAS, the elevated fuel pool at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant contains 500 tons of highly radioactive waste and is not adequately fortified in the event of strong weather situations or terrorist attack and the on site modules filled with nuclear waste and fuel pool pose an attractive target for terrorists; and

WHEREAS, design standards have changed dramatically since the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant was constructed 34 years ago and the current configuration of the plant and buildings raise important security and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said the Mark 1 Nuclear Reactor Containment System of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant is of faulty design and there would be a 90 percent failure rate in case of an accident, therefore making it necessary to vent the pressure buildup to avoid a core meltdown. This, however, defeats the containment altogether and would expose the public to doses of high pressure, highly radioactive steam; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear emergency evacuation plan lacks credibility and the consensus of residents at the July 22, 2003 Evacuation Hearing is that an independent agency should be commissioned to conduct a study and/or that the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant should be shut down immediately; and

WHEREAS, the NRC has not taken enforcement action against an 11 year old non compliance identified in a January 24, 2003 Triennial Fire Protection Inspection Report (#50-219/02-01) involving the ability of the reactor to safely shut down in the event of a fire, exposing the public to undue risk; and

WHEREAS, with continuing operation for an additional twenty years beyond 2009, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant's age-related degradation and risk of an accident will only increase in likelihood; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accounting Office has found that the decommissioning fund for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant is sufficient; and

WHEREAS, the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant produces less than 1% of the energy on the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland (PJM) electric grid; and

WHEREAS, the 650 megawatts of energy produced by the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant can be easily replaced by the current and future projected grid reserve margin, renewable energy production and energy efficiency measures and that over the net years, the PJM grid generating capacity will exceed the reserve margin by nearly 13,000 megawatts – to the point where PJM projects are selling energy to other grids.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Bordentown that they do hereby formally request the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to deny any license extension for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant beyond the current expiration date of April 2009; formally oppose any application to build other nuclear facilities on the Oyster Creek site; call for the decommissioning of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant as soon as practically possible and that plans for retraining and rehiring of existing employees begin immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Exelon Corporation, owners of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant, be called upon to fund the decommissioning process in entirety, including the funding of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection staff to oversee the decommissioning process and ensure it is carried out with the highest regard for public health and safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Gov. James McGreevey, Senators Lautenberg and Corzine, NJ DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Representatives Saxton and Pallone, NJ Assemblymen and Senators of Districts 9-10-11-12 and 30, Jersey Shore Nuclear Watch and NJ Public Interest Research Group.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Bordentown at a regular meeting conducted on the 9th day of February 2004.

Patricia D. Ryan, CMC
City Clerk
Municipal Finance Officer