



Nuclear Energy Information Service

Illinois' Nuclear Power Watchdog since 1981

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PRESS STATEMENT

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Exelon's Nuclear War on Renewables: Bad Energy Policy, Thwarts Climate Goals

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Since late 2013 Exelon Corporation has led an industry-wide national campaign designed to thwart the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency; secure financial bailouts for unprofitable existing nuclear reactors; and entrench the traditional utility model of central station generation coupled with archaic electricity grids, dominated by existing nuclear and fossil fuel utilities.

Since late last year we in Illinois have seen the following occur with Exelon's support and instigation:

- Not-too-veiled threats that Exelon may close up to 5 uncompetitive reactors in Illinois (resulting in the potential loss of 2,300 jobs in an election year) if the Legislature would not act to reward "nuclear's unique value" to the State of Illinois;
- Establishment and primary bankrolling of the "Nuclear Matters" pro-nuclear front group;
- Meetings with the IL House Speaker Michael Madigan, which resulted in Madigan's not making a needed fix to the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard law, in exchange for an Exelon pledge to not close the 5 previously mentioned uneconomic reactors for 12 months;
- Introduction of the pro-nuclear HR1146 Resolution a week after Madigan reneged on fixing the RPS.

Introduction of HR1146 by Speaker Madigan occurred after he met with representatives from Exelon, and after cancellation of the RPS fix. Its blatantly pro-nuclear mandate calls for 4 State agencies to conduct studies which are to conclude that closing nuclear plants would be detrimental to the State's well-being -- a conclusion reached without any data having yet been gathered, making this a "study to show," not a "study to know."

HR1146 also asks the U.S. EPA to *order* the State to use nuclear plants to meet its pending carbon limits goal, and "...to offset and balance emissions from fossil fuel electric generation...."(1), thus guaranteeing the continued operation of polluting coal plants which otherwise might have closed. This is an express contradiction to the stated purpose of the EPA's recently released draft carbon standards rule, "...to lower the carbon intensity of power

generation in the United States (U.S.). Lower carbon intensity means fewer emissions of CO2 (2)....” To enlist nuclear plants to sell or trade credits to keep fossil fuel plants operating defeats the very purpose of the EPA rule.

Thus, through the provisions of HR1146, Exelon intends to subvert the legitimate goals of the EPA carbon standard rules, using them as a fig leaf justification to keep its uncompetitive nuclear reactors operating, and insure the continued operation of polluting coal plants as well, while destroying the expansion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Illinois.

This is not sound climate, nor sound energy policy; it's political payback, and business as usual. It will be opposed. ■