



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

17 MAR -8 PM 6:23

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CITY CLERK

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8
COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Andy Segovia, City Attorney; John Peterek, Assistant to the City Manager; Christopher Callanen, Assistant to City Council
SUBJECT: Resolution to Protect Our Lives, Land and Water from Radioactive Waste Risks
DATE: March 8th, 2017

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Governance Committee:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is currently reviewing the application for Waste Control Specialists to accept 5,000 tons of waste, starting in 2021. This consolidated waste storage would be temporary in nature, until a permanent nuclear waste storage facility becomes available elsewhere in the United States.

It is likely that, due to the volume of nuclear energy facilities east of San Antonio, much of this waste would be transported through the city. The public comment period for this license application ends March 13th, and the city has until March 31st to formally intervene in the process. Bexar County Commissioners Court passed a similar resolution on February 21st. The following resolution would establish the City of San Antonio as opposed to nuclear waste transportation through our city, and would reserve the option for us to intervene.

Brief Background

WHEREAS; Andrews County in Texas and Eddy and Lea Counties in NM are targeted for forty years or more of storage for the nation's most dangerous nuclear reactor waste, which could lead to dangerous de facto permanent dumps, and importing high-level radioactive waste would put millions of people at risk for financial and health impacts from potential accidents or incidents; and

WHEREAS; Transporting high-level radioactive waste for the purpose of consolidated storage would unnecessarily increase risks of accidents or terrorism activity, and the waste would likely travel through the San Antonio region, where major military bases are located; and



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WHEREAS: High-level radioactive waste should remain secured at or near the site of generation and be transported only once, when a scientifically viable permanent disposal site becomes available; and

WHEREAS; High-level radioactive waste consists of irradiated (spent) fuel from nuclear power reactors and/or weapons production that includes uranium, plutonium and other radioactive elements that must be isolated for thousands of years or longer. The waste on a single train car would likely contain as much plutonium as was in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki; and

WHEREAS; Exposure to radioactivity is known to lead to birth defects, genetic damage, and cancers and unshielded exposure to high-level radioactive waste could give a lethal dose; and

WHEREAS; Our lives, land and aquifers must be protected from radioactive contamination which could result from accidents, radiation releases or leaks, or terrorist actions during the thousands of high-level radioactive waste shipments that would occur for a period of 24 years if consolidated storage is licensed; and

WHEREAS; An accident releasing only a small amount of radioactivity could contaminate a 42-square mile area. A DOE study found that cleanup could cost \$620 million in a rural area and \$9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated square mile of a large city; and

WHEREAS; Small communities with largely Hispanic populations and few resources to fight back are being targeted to host the radioactive waste dumps, an example of extreme environmental injustice; and

WHEREAS; Many states have previously rejected consolidated high-level radioactive waste storage or disposal, and Texas farmers and ranchers concerned about the Ogallala Aquifer defeated a proposed Deaf Smith County nuclear disposal site in the 1980's;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of San Antonio does not support or consent to consolidated interim storage of radioactive waste in Texas and nearby New Mexico, or the transportation of high-level radioactive waste on our railways or highways for the purpose of consolidated storage or permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste in Texas or New Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of San Antonio should explore the opportunity to intervene in the NRC licensing process in order to best protect the health and safety of our community.

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Submitted for Council consideration by:

Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)

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4.

District

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