

**ILLINOIS ENERGY TRANSFORMATION #12:
“RUIN US ONCE, SHAME ON YOU. RUIN US SEVEN TIMES, SHAME
ON THE LEGISLATURE!”**

8 January, 2017

Greetings and Happy New Year to You All,

We at NEIS hope you all had a restful and enjoyable set of holidays. We also wish you the best of success in getting Illinois back on its feet in the upcoming legislative session.

We will be continuing our IET series throughout 2017, bringing you the best and most current information possible on nuclear-related events, along with our analysis and recommendations.

The recent article (attached) that appeared in the January 7, 2017 Chicago Sun-Times confirms in detail the warnings we gave both throughout the Exelon nuclear bailout debates and in the attached [op-ed that we wrote](#) which appeared in the Springfield Journal Register on December 13, 2016: if you thought the work is done with Exelon and nuclear power, you'd be quite mistaken.

We identified two major, glaring omissions (attached) avoided in the recently passed Exelon nuclear bailout legislation: 1.) no effort was made to put into place the kind of “just transitions” programs NEIS advocated for the past two years to deal with the INEVITABILITY of reactor closures and the negative economic impacts these would have on local communities; and 2.) major improvements are needed in Illinois statute to deal with reactor decommissioning.

The Zion article amply demonstrates the need for both of these to be corrected in the upcoming Spring legislative session.

In our testimony before both the House and the Senate Energy Committees, we pointed out both the need and the consequences of not acting to remedy these situations, going beyond even the huge negative impacts demonstrated by the current economic situation in the community of Zion.

We also point blank asked what legislators WILL do when the inevitable ax falls on the communities around the Byron, Braidwood, Dresden (Morris) and LaSalle (LaSalle, Peru) reactors when those reactors close. We also pointed out that it's far better to take pre-emptive action to correct these long-standing deficiencies BEFORE one's political nose is pressed up against the fan blades of crisis, elections, political pressure and legalized economic extortion. We were grateful to see a few nodding heads at those hearings when we brought this up.

NEIS is prepared to work with legislators and the Governor's office to correct these deficiencies in state law, BEFORE the next “nuclear hostage crisis” (and bailout request) is initiated by Exelon.

We wish you well in the upcoming session.