Organizational Sign on Letter: opposing the repeal of Illinois nuclear power plant construction moratorium; and support for prioritizing and implementing the goals of CEJA before constructing new reactors.

March, 2023

To the Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, and The Illinois Legislature:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the State to uphold the 1987 nuclear power plant construction moratorium, and reject proposals to build new power reactors of any time until first fully implementing the construction goals for renewable energy sources as laid out in the 2021 Climate Equity and Jobs Act (CEJA).

Attempts are being made to repeal Illinois’ 1987 nuclear reactor construction moratorium, which prevents new reactors from being built until the Federal Government opens and operates a permanent disposal facility for the ever increasing amounts of high-level radioactive wastes reactors generate, 11,000+ tons of which are in Illinois, with more being produced daily by existing reactors.

This attempted repeal is being done with the intention of promoting and building “small modular nuclear reactors,” (SMNRs) which will produce even more waste with no disposal site for radioactive wastes available.

Additionally, SMNRs would compete for market share and transmission access with the renewable energy projects mandated in the 2021 CEJA legislation, thus sabotaging the goals of CEJA and thwarting achievement of the goal of 100% renewables by 2050.

Worse, SMNRs do not even exist yet, and will not be available at commercial scale until the 2030s at best, making the moratorium repeal illogical and premature since they too will add to the waste burden.

THEREFORE, the undersigned state their opposition to the repeal of the 1987 Nuclear Construction Moratorium and the building of new nuclear reactors in Illinois, UNTIL such time as the renewable energy goals expressed in CEJA are first fully completed. In addition the undersigned ask the state to prioritize future funding and efforts towards increasing energy efficiency, developing energy storage, and improving the quality of and access to the electrical transmission system.

We thank you for your consideration of these views.
Gratefully,

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Authorized to sign?:

RETURN TO: Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS), 3411 W. Diversey, #13, Chicago, IL  60647; neis@neis.org