

**CITY OF GIG HARBOR
RESOLUTION NO. 448**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE ADOPTION OF A POLICY, BEING PROPOSED JOINTLY BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TO ACCEPT AND MANAGE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM FOREIGN RESEARCH REACTORS BY SHIPMENT THROUGH THE PORT OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy and the United States Department of State are jointly proposing to adopt a policy to manage spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors; and

WHEREAS, nuclear fuel containing uranium enriched in the United States of America would be covered by this policy; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this policy is to promote United States nuclear weapons nonproliferation policy objectives, specifically seeking to reduce highly enriched uranium from civilian commerce, and

WHEREAS, the environmental effects and policy considerations of three management alternative approaches for implementation of the proposed policy and assessed; and

WHEREAS, alternative number one would be the acceptance and management of the spent nuclear fuel by the Department of Energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, under alternative number one the spent nuclear fuel will be shipped by ocean-going vessels from foreign countries to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gig Harbor is a municipality in the County of Pierce and shares waters in close geographic proximity to the Port of Tacoma; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Tacoma is considered one of ten ports through which the shipment of spent nuclear fuels would occur, and

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was prepared to address the Proposed Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel; and

- A. the DEIS has used outdated information about the Port of Tacoma, its terminals, its operations, and the surrounding area;
- B. the DEIS did not consider the deep-water depth in the Puget Sound area, which

will cause substantial problems in recovery of nuclear fuel shipping containers in case of accident, especially considering the limited integrity standard for containers pertaining to water;

- C. the DEIS fully ignored the harm which can be caused to the population and environment of the area in case of an explosion and fire aboard a vessel navigating Puget Sound;
- D. the DEIS did not recognize the status of Commencement Bay as a superfund site, the stigma attached to this designation, and the expansion of this stigma by Alternative Number One;
- E. the DEIS ignored the significant cleanup effort by the Port of Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, the industries in Commencement Bay, and the associated crippling business interruption issues;
- F. the DEIS stated that part of this material would be of interest to unfriendly nations and/or terrorists, and yet did not provide adequate risk and consequence information of a compete, explosive breach of the nuclear fuel by disgruntled persons or terrorists;
- G. the DEIS did not consider the security aspect of these shipments through the Port of Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, Pierce County, and the State of Washington;
- H. the DEIS did not adequately address the life cycle costs or benefits and risks of the proposed alternatives;
- I. the DEIS fully ignored the fairness and equity issues of selecting the smaller ports in lower population areas after implying the risks were virtually inconsequential; and

WHEREAS, the record for the safe operation and handling of nuclear materials in United States Department of Energy regulated facilities is less than satisfactory, and there are facilities owned and operated by the United States Government capable of receiving and handling this nuclear material, and

WHEREAS, the United States House Budget Resolution eliminates the United States Department of Energy thereby creating funding uncertainties, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has failed to properly answer a question in a meeting conducted by the Port of Tacoma, in Tacoma on the 22nd of May, 1995, (reference Attachment 'A') pertaining to the effect of radiation in the environment should a shipping cask be damaged during the handling process in the Port, or to respond in writing to that question as promised and; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON HEREBY

RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of Gig Harbor, Washington, strongly opposes adoption of a policy, being proposed jointly by the United States Department of Energy and United States Department of State, to accept and manage spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors by shipment through the Port of Tacoma, Washington.

Section 2. Copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to President Clinton, Vice President Gore, the United States Department of Energy, the United States Department of State, the Washington State Congressional delegation, the Washington State Legislature, the Office of the Governor, the Pierce County Executive, the King County Council and Executive.

RESOLVED by the City Council this 26th day of June, 1995.

APPROVED:

Gretchen A. Wilbert, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Mark E. Hoppen, City Administrator/Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

BY: _____

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 6/21/95

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 6/26/95