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ADOPTED

Resolution No. 2012-129

**Resolution in Support of Expanding Emergency Planning Zones Around
Nuclear Power Plants**

WHEREAS, of the 104 nuclear power plants currently operating in the United States, 23 of them are the same design as the Fukushima-style General Electric Mark 1 boiling water reactor, and two of those are in central New York State (FitzPatrick and Nine Mile Point 1, both in Oswego), and

WHEREAS, after the 1979 Three Mile island accident the nation's nuclear regulators adopted community emergency-planning requirements for both a plume exposure pathway (10-mile radius evacuation planning) and an ingestion pathway (25-mile-radius monitoring and possible interdiction of foods), with both numbers based on models rather than experience, and

WHEREAS, the April 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident resulted in interdiction of contaminated food and livestock hundreds of miles away (and as far away as contaminated livestock in Wales, 1000 miles from Chernobyl), and

WHEREAS, the March 2011 nuclear accident at Fukushima resulted in a mandatory evacuation within a 12-mile radius around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear site, a recommended evacuation within an 18-mile radius, and actual evacuation of villages 25 miles to the northwest, as well as numerous documented instances of contaminated food and livestock more than 100 miles away, and the U.S. government warned U.S. citizens to stay at least 50 miles away, and

WHEREAS, in response to the March 2011 Fukushima disaster the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) established a Task Force to determine lessons learned and to review NRC regulations to see if any additional measures are warranted, and

WHEREAS, the NRC Task Force issued its report on July 11, 2011, concluding there is no imminent risk but that enhanced to safety and emergency preparedness are warranted, issued a dozen proposed regulations, and continues to make additions and recommendations, and

WHEREAS, in seeming contradiction to this, the NRC published in a December 2011 Federal Register changes to community emergency planning that had been in the works for several years and that took effect December 23 and that require fewer exercises for major accidents and recommend that fewer people be evacuated right away; these changes clearly seem to clash with the lessons learned from Fukushima, and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2012, in response to these changed emergency preparedness regulations, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and 37 co-petitioners filed a Petition for Rulemaking with the NRC to expand emergency planning and evacuation zones and strengthen emergency regulations, and

WHEREAS, tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods during 2011 caused loss of offsite power and other damage to several nuclear reactor sites across the United States, including Browns Ferry in Alabama, Surry in Virginia, Calvert Cliffs in Maryland, and Fort Calhoun in Nebraska, demonstrating that natural disasters can challenge nuclear safety systems, and current NRC regulations do not require emergency exercises to include scenarios with regionally appropriate initiating or concurrent natural disasters, and

DOCKETED
USNRC

July 11, 2012 (4:30 pm)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

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Rulemaking Comments

From: Karen Fuller [kfuller@tomkins-co.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Rulemaking Comments
Subject: Comment regarding Docket ID NRC-2012-0046
Attachments: R129-12.doc

Please see the attached resolution passed by the Tompkins County Legislature.

Karen Fuller
Deputy Clerk
Tompkins County Legislature
Inclusion through Diversity