

Seneca Nation of Indians

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AT THE REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL OF
THE SENECA NATION OF INDIANS HELD ON
MARCH 14, 2009 AT THE G.R. PLUMMER
BUILDING ON THE ALLEGANY TERRITORY
SALAMANCA, NEW YORK, 14779.

CN: R-03-14-09-25

EXECUTIVES PRESENT:

PRESIDENT	-	BARRY E. SNYDER, SR.
CLERK	-	LENITH K. WATERMAN
TREASURER	-	JACQUELINE L. BOWEN

TO SUPPORT WEST VALLEY CLEANUP / APPROVAL

MOTION: by J. Conrad Seneca, seconded by Donald John that Tribal Council approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Nation of Indians is a Sovereign Nation recognized by the United States as such pursuant to the Treaty of November 11, 1794 and occupying five territories in Western York State; and

WHEREAS, the West Valley nuclear waste site, located 17 miles upstream from the Nation's Cattaraugus Territory along Cattaraugus Creek, is burdened with the vast amounts of toxic and radioactive wastes, many of which will remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years, some for millions of years, including plutonium, uranium, strontium-90 and iodine-129, which can cause leukemia and cancer at low doses; and

WHEREAS, the West Valley site is the United States' only venture into commercial reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel, which was operated by Nuclear Fuel Services and resulted in a complete failure in 1976 with the Company leaving and passing on clean up responsibility to the U.S. government; and

WHEREAS, the West Valley site sits on top of a sole source aquifer and has been plagued with problems, such as radioactive contaminated groundwater, and radioactivity from the site has been found as far away as the shore at the juncture of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario demonstrating a potential for the leaking site to contaminate the waters flowing through the Nation's Territory and affecting the lives of the Seneca people; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and NYS Energy Research & Development Authority are proposing to leave buried waste onsite, (including high level radioactive waste tanks when such tanks are at the end of their useful lives and could leak contamination at any time), and delay final cleanup decisions for up to 30 years; and

WHEREAS, various economists and scientists recently released a first-ever study on the long-term cleanup costs, *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site*, funded by a New York State grant sponsored by Senator Catherine Young (R-Olean), and conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, experts from Tufts University, SUNY Fredonia and Radioactive Waste Management Associates; and

WHEREAS, the study investigated the costs of digging up radioactive waste versus leaving waste buried onsite for the next 1,000 years and found that a full waste excavation cleanup costs less, at \$9.9 billion, and presents the least risk to the population that leaving buried waste onsite, at \$13 billion, and which also carries high risks to human populations, including a potential cost of \$27 billion or more if a catastrophic release of radioactive waste contaminated drinking water supplies;

WHEREAS, scientists have found that erosion is a powerful and fast moving force in the region, which means that leaving buried radioactive waste onsite poses a risk to the Nation and its people if controls fail and dangerous radioactive waste pollutes Cattaraugus Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Seneca Nation of Indians hereby supports the full cleanup of the entire West Valley nuclear waste site through waste excavation and the adoption of cleanup standards that are at least as protective as current New York State radiation standards and unrestricted use toxic standards, and are fully protective of vulnerable populations, including children, fish, wildlife and water; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President is authorized and directed to distribute official copies of this resolution to appropriate United States and New York State Energy officials, including the U.S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority.

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing extract is a true and correct copy from the minutes of the Regular Session of Council of the Seneca Nation of Indians held on March 14, 2009, on the Allegany Territory, original of which is on file in the Clerk's Office of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

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REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL
MARCH 14, 2009
PAGE 3

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal to be affixed at the G.R. Plummer Building, on the Allegany Territory, on the 18th day of March 2009.

ATTEST:



LENITH K. WATERMAN, CLERK
SENECA NATION OF INDIANS

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