AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to providing for decommissioning oversight boards for nuclear power plants in New York state

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 174 to read as follows:

§ 174. New York state decommissioning oversight boards. 1. Definitions. The following terms shall have the following meanings:

a. "Retirement" means the permanent closure of a nuclear power plant in the state that has been noticed to the nuclear regulatory commission ("NRC").

b. "Retiring facility" or "facility" means a nuclear power plant in the state whose permanent closure has been noticed to the nuclear regulatory commission.

c. "Decommissioning period" means the time commencing from the retiring facility's notice to the nuclear regulatory commission of the intent to close permanently until the property has been released for reuse and all spent nuclear fuel has been removed from the site.

d. "Reuse" means the unrestricted use of the site subject to applicable nuclear regulatory commission regulations, and federal, state, and local laws.

e. "Decommissioning activities" means activities at the retiring facility to reduce residual radioactivity to a level that permits release of the property for reuse and the termination of the nuclear regulatory commission license but does not include activities associated with irradiated fuel management and site restoration activities, legal

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.
expenses, accounting expenses, or any other costs beyond what is neces-
sary to terminate the nuclear regulatory commission license.

f. "Licensee" means the holder of the nuclear regulatory commission
license for the retiring facility as of the date of any activity speci-
fied herein.

g. "Site" means the property on which the retiring facility sits.

h. "Site restoration" means all activities performed to prepare the
site for reuse.

i. " Decommissioning trust fund" means the funds accumulated pursuant
to nuclear regulatory commission regulations for the decommissioning of
the retiring facility, from any source, including any interest received
thereon.

j. "Comments" means official statements on proposed actions with
regard to the retiring facility, filed with the nuclear regulatory
commission or other government entity according to all applicable regu-
lations.

k. "Spent nuclear fuel" means any fuel rods and/or fuel assemblies
that have been installed in the retiring facility's reactor core at any
time.

l. "Community member" means any individual residing in this state
within fifty miles of the retiring facility.

2. Creation of New York state decommissioning oversight board or
boards (each a "NYSDOB" or "board").

a. A New York state decommissioning oversight board shall be estab-
lished within the department for a retiring facility in the state within
one month after the facility's closure is noticed to the nuclear regula-
tory commission and shall extend until: (i) the facility's decommission-
ing period is completed; (ii) all site restoration is completed and the
site is released by all governmental authorities for reuse; and (iii)
all spent nuclear fuel has been removed from the site. For any retiring
facility that notified the nuclear regulatory commission of its perma-
nent closure in the five years prior to the enactment of this law, a
NYSDOB shall be established as expeditiously as possible.

b. The board shall help coordinate the efforts of state agencies'
oversight of the decommissioning activities to ensure the retiring
facility is in compliance with all state and federal regulations and
make reports and recommendations to state and federal officials, as
needed. Additionally, the board shall observe the disbursement of the
retiring facility's decommissioning trust fund, facilitate public
involvement and transparency throughout the decommissioning period, act
as a forum to both disseminate information and solicit input from the
public, and observe any other aspects of decommissioning activities, and
site restoration, to the full extent allowed by law.

c. Eleven members collectively known as "agency members" shall serve
on the board and will consist of: the chief executive officer of the
department, the secretary of state, the commissioner of environmental
conservation, the commissioner of health, the director of the office of
emergency management, the state comptroller, the attorney general, the
president of the New York state energy research and development authori-
ty, the commissioner of labor, the president and chief executive officer
of the power authority of the state of New York, and the commissioner of
the division of homeland security and emergency services, or their
designees.

d. The governor shall appoint six members and the temporary president
of the senate and the speaker of the assembly shall each appoint two
members ("appointed members"). Preference shall be given to the follow-
ing individuals:

(i) Community members who have demonstrated active engagement and have experience researching and advocating about issues related to the facility;
(ii) Individuals representing labor unions whose members were employed at the applicable facility;
(iii) Individuals representing environmental organizations;
(iv) Individuals representing environmental justice communities associated with the facility;
(v) Individuals with scientific or technical background relevant to nuclear power plant decommissioning or engineering;
(vi) Individuals engaged in local emergency planning; and
(vii) Local elected officials.

e. There are no term limits for the agency members, who shall serve as ex officio members. In order to help preserve continuity and organizational memory, appointed members shall serve staggered terms of three years. If any appointed member position becomes vacant, another member shall be appointed to fill the unexpired term within ninety days of the date of the vacancy. After two terms, each appointed member shall cycle off and be replaced by another appointee; former appointed members may return after a break of at least one year.

f. No person who holds any relationship to or financial interest in any company with an ownership or other financial interest in any nuclear power plant in the state, including related or parent companies, subsidiaries, contractors, agents, shareholders, or others (as determined by the state) may be appointed to the board.

g. The board shall select a vice chair from among its members. The chief executive officer of the department shall serve as the chair. In the event of the unavailability or incapacity of the chair, the vice chair shall assume the duties of the chair.

3. Board meetings. The board shall meet a minimum of four times each year at the call of the chair. However, once decommissioning activities are complete the board may reduce the number of meetings to a minimum of once per year.

a. The chair shall provide notice to all members and to the public at least two weeks prior to any regular meeting.
b. Meetings shall be held in Albany or at a location that is accessible to community members, and proximate to an applicable facility.
c. In response to a situation in which the physical integrity of the facility and/or nuclear waste storage may have been compromised and/or damaged, an emergency meeting may be called with at least twenty-four hours notice.
d. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.
e. The board shall act only by a vote of a majority of the members.
f. All regular meetings shall be open to the public and shall include an opportunity for public comment. Meetings shall be recorded and shall be made available electronically for public viewing.
g. The board shall be subject to article seven of the public officers law.

4. Powers and duties of the board. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

a. The board's functions shall be to: (i) advise the governor, the legislature, the agencies of the state, and the public on issues related to the decommissioning of nuclear facilities, including but not limited to: short-term and long-term radioactive waste storage; site restora-
tion and future use of the site; maintenance of emergency planning and
response funds before, during, and after decommissioning; use of the
decommissioning trust fund; and plans for ongoing oversight of the
facility for as long as spent fuel or greater than class C waste remain
at the site; and (ii) assess whether all licensee requirements are
fulfilled.

b. The board shall produce an annual report including the status of
decommissioning; effects on the surrounding communities; and any recom-
mendations for state action in regard to any post-shutdown decommission-
ing activities report, license amendment request or requests, regulatory
exemption request and/or other modification or amendment relating to the
retiring facility.

c. When a post-shutdown decommissioning activities report or other
decommissioning plan for the retiring facility is produced by the licen-
see pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(a)(4), the board shall:

(i) Review the decommissioning plans and/or the post-shutdown decom-
missioning activities report;
(ii) Alert the public to such action and provide public access to the
plans and/or post-shutdown decommissioning activities report;
(iii) Solicit and provide a forum for public comment on such plans
and/or post-shutdown decommissioning activities report;
(iv) Develop recommendations regarding the proposed plan and/or post-
shutdown decommissioning activities report, incorporating input from the
public as appropriate;
(v) Compile comments incorporating the board's recommendations and
public comment;

(vi) Submit such comments to the nuclear regulatory commission during
the applicable comment period, as necessary, and provide a copy of the
comments to the governor, the legislature, applicable state agencies,
and the public.

d. When any application is made to the nuclear regulatory commission
to transfer or modify the facility's commercial power reactor license,
including, but not limited to, license amendment request or requests or
license termination or transfer plans, or when an application is made to
the nuclear regulatory commission for any other permit or permits
related to the site, such as, but not limited to, exemptions from feder-
al regulations and/or the establishment or transfer of an independent
spent fuel storage installation, the board shall:

(i) Review such applications;
(ii) Alert the public to such applications and provide public access
to the application materials;
(iii) Solicit and provide a forum for public comment on such plans;
(iv) Develop recommendations regarding the proposed applications,
incorporating input from the public as appropriate;
(v) Compile comments incorporating the board's recommendations and
public comment;

(vi) Submit such comments to the nuclear regulatory commission during
the applicable comment period, as necessary, and provide a copy of the
report to the governor, the state legislature, applicable state agen-
cies, and the public.

e. The board may, as it deems appropriate, review plans or permits
made available to it by a state agency, solicit public comment, and
produce comments or recommendations to the state agency.

f. The board shall periodically review reports, including the annual
audited financial statements, on the decommissioning trust fund and
other funds associated with decommissioning of or site restoration at
the facility, including fund balances, expenditures made, and reimburse-
ments received to ensure that such funds are spent according to all 
applicable laws and that no shortfalls are anticipated that might affect 
state or local governments.

5. Licensee requirements.
   a. The licensee shall provide the following information to the board 
as soon as possible:
      (i) A copy of any communications between the licensee and the nuclear 
regulatory commission regarding:
      (1) the post-shutdown decommissioning activities report for the retir-
ing facility,
      (2) status reports on the cleanup of the existing radioactive contam-
ination on the site,
      (3) the establishment of or modifications to spent fuel storage 
installation on the site of the retiring facility, 
      (4) a proposed license transfer or modification for the facility, 
and/or for the storage of spent fuel at the facility. 
      (ii) Annual audited financial statements, prepared in compliance with 
generally accepted auditing standards adopted by the public company 
accounting oversight board, for the funds held in the decommissioning 
trust fund of the facility, including an independent analysis of whether 
the expenditures in the financial year covered were consistent with 
nuclear regulatory commission regulatory requirements. 
      (iii) Information requested by the board that is in the possession of 
the licensee and relates to site reuse; the decommissioning trust fund; 
the relevant economic interests of the state or municipalities; or is 
otherwise reasonably required to allow the board to complete its duties. 
   b. The licensee shall not use decommissioning trust funds except for 
decommissioning activities as defined on the effective date of this 
section and consistent with federal law.

6. Board members’ expenses. Board members shall receive no compen-
sation for their services but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary 
expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

7. Administration of the board. a. The department shall provide admin-
istrative support. 
   b. The board may contract for the services of technical or other 
consultants to produce, compile, and/or analyze data relating to the 
facility and to advise the board.

8. Enforcement. Whenever the attorney general finds that a licensee is 
in violation of any of the requirements listed in subdivision five of 
this section he or she may issue an order requiring the licensee to 
comply or bring civil action to ensure compliance. The board may provide 
any relevant information to the attorney general.

9. Severability clause. If any provision of this law or its applica-
tion to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall 
not affect other provisions or applications of this law which can be 
given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this 
end the provisions of this law are severable.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall 
have become a law.