



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director
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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POWER

FROM: David L. Lovell, Senior Analyst, and John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services

RE: Preparations for the Special Committee's January 26, 2007 meeting.

DATE: December 21, 2006

At the close of the December 14, 2006 meeting of the Special Committee on Nuclear Power, Chair Montgomery said that, at its next meeting, scheduled for January 26, 2007, the Special Committee would discuss policy recommendations related to its assignment. He asked committee members to consider what policy options they would like the Special Committee to consider and to submit them in writing to staff, who will compile and distribute them to the Special Committee in advance of the January 26 meeting. To ensure that your proposals are included in the staff compilation, please have them to us *no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2007*. This is particularly important, as Chair Montgomery has indicated that he intends to complete the committee's work at the January 26 meeting. Proposals need not be fully developed, but should be as specific as possible.

Earlier in the December 14 meeting, Chair Montgomery noted that the committee's charge is broader than considering whether to continue or repeal the state's moratorium on construction of new nuclear power plants. He indicated his desire to see the committee develop policy recommendations designed to move Wisconsin forward in concrete steps toward securing the state's energy future in a sustainable way, with particular, though not exclusive, attention to the role of nuclear power in doing so. He encourages you to keep this in mind as you consider policy options you would like the Special Committee to discuss. He also encourages you to talk among yourselves and to use committee staff as a resource in this process. (Please keep in mind that a gathering of a quorum of the committee constitutes a meeting of the committee, triggering the requirements of the Open Meetings Law. In particular, a series of e-mail correspondences involving a majority of the committee has been ruled to be a meeting, and so should be avoided.)

In the last portion of the December 14 meeting, the Special Committee discussed and reached general agreement on a set of principles to guide the committee in evaluating policy options related to its charge. It based this discussion on a set of five principles proposed by Public Member Michael Corradini in a November 19, 2006 e-mail message to Chair Montgomery. A copy of the message was distributed and is available on the committee's web page. At the close of the meeting, Chair

Montgomery invited committee members to comment on the principles or propose additional principles, providing this feedback to staff by e-mail.

Following are the principles, in the language that we understand the committee agreed to, modified to eliminate use of the first person:

1. The Legislature should act in the next session on long-term electric energy concerns and to design Wisconsin's energy future, and not wait for a crisis to develop.
2. Nuclear power is an integral part of the electric energy mix now in Wisconsin, the United States, and world, and will remain so in Wisconsin as long as current plants continue to operate. The state needs to address the benefits and costs of generating electricity with various fuels in a rational and balanced manner.
3. Wisconsin needs a sound electric energy portfolio, and improved energy conservation and efficiency is the cornerstone that this portfolio should be built upon.
4. Energy conservation and efficiency cannot solve our electric energy situation alone; the state needs a balanced portfolio that allows for the needed growth in electric energy from a wide variety of sources without undue constraints.
5. The development of the state's future electric energy policy should be guided by consideration of costs, safety, reliability, and environmental and facility siting concerns.

Following the meeting, Public Member Richard Shaten proposed a sixth principle. The text of his e-mail message to staff is as follows:

I have thought about it, and propose the following concise statement to deal with the issues of global warming, land/air/water pollution, potential carbon taxes, the risk that Price Anderson might not be renewed after 2025, and the overall issue of long-lived radioactive waste and decommissioning of nuclear plants...:

“Policy proposals on electrical generation should consider the full extent of economic risks to current and future residents of Wisconsin.”

If you have any questions about preparations for the January 26 meeting or the principles presented above, please contact us directly at the Legislative Council staff offices.

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