

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0070  
(916) 319-2070

DISTRICT OFFICE  
JAMBOREE CENTER  
3 PARK PLAZA, SUITE 275  
IRVINE, CA 92614  
(949) 863-7070

E-MAIL  
assemblymember.devore@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature

CHUCK DeVORE  
REPUBLICAN WHIP  
ASSEMBLYMAN, SEVENTIETH DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR, REVENUE AND TAXATION  
BUDGET  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

07-0027

July 10, 2007

The Hon. Jerry Brown  
Attorney General  
State of California  
1300 I Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 10 2007

INITIATIVE COORDINATOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am requesting that your office prepare a title and summary for an initiative to be submitted to the voters of the State of California entitled the *California Energy Independence and Zero Carbon Dioxide Emission Electrical Generation Act of 2008*. The initiative's purpose is to allow the construction of new, safe, and reliable nuclear power plants in seismically safe and environmentally appropriate areas of California to reduce California's carbon footprint while reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels.

The attached document from Legislative Counsel includes the measure's digest and the initiative language.

As the measure is very simple and straightforward, I am hoping that your office can assign a ballot title and summary in something less than the estimated 60 day maximum.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter of great importance to the people of the State of California.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Chuck DeVore  
Seventieth District

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An act to add Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 25450) to Division 15 of, and to repeal Sections 25524.1 and 25524.2 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to energy resources.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 25450) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 5.5. CALIFORNIA ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND ZERO CARBON DIOXIDE  
EMISSION ELECTRICAL GENERATION ACT OF 2008

25450. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the California Zero Carbon Dioxide Emission Electrical Generation Act of 2008.

25450.1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) Modern nuclear powerplants emit zero carbon dioxide emissions and nuclear power is the only large scale and reliable electrical energy generating technology that does not directly emit carbon dioxide, which is thought to be a component of global warming or climate change. Building new nuclear powerplants will allow California to comply with the carbon emission reduction mandates while still meeting the state's growing need for electricity.

(b) More than half of California's electrical power is generated by natural gas, which is imported from other nations and states, and from coal. Natural gas prices are highly sensitive to supply and demand fluctuations, due to volatile world market conditions, and these price fluctuations can harm both consumers and business.

(c) Modern, efficient, and safe nuclear power should be considered part of the solution of improving California's ability to generate reliable, affordable, and clean energy, so as to benefit California consumers, the economy, and the environment.



(d) To maximize safety and minimize environmental impacts of any new commercial nuclear powerplants that may be built in the state, seismically active and biologically sensitive areas should be excluded from site consideration.

25450.2. The commission shall not certify a site for a nuclear fission thermal powerplant that has a 10-percent probability or greater in a 50-year period of exceeding a peak acceleration of 30 percent of gravity (0.30g) on hard rock, or equivalent acceleration on other soils, as determined by the United States Geological Survey/California Geological Survey Probabilistic Seismic Hazards Assessment (PSHA) Model, 2002 (revised April 2003) or as updated on or after January 1, 2015.

25450.3. To reduce the environmental impact of the warm outflow of nuclear fission thermal powerplant coolant waters, the commission shall not certify a site for a nuclear fission thermal powerplant that uses a once-through nuclear reactor cooling system, if the location of the nuclear powerplant coolant outflow of that system meets either of the following criteria:

(a) The location is within five miles of a coastal area of special biological significance, as determined by the State Water Resources Control Board on or before June 1, 2003, pursuant to the California Ocean Plan adopted pursuant to Section 13170.2 of the Water Code, or as updated by the State Water Resources Control Board on or after January 1, 2015.

(b) The outflow is to a navigable river.

25450.4. When certifying a new nuclear fission thermal powerplant pursuant to this division, the commission shall consider any dry cask storage system approved



by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be an appropriate method for storing spent nuclear fuel.

25450.5. For purposes of taking any action with regard to approving, reviewing, or issuing a permit or other grant of authority to, a new nuclear fission thermal powerplant, a state agency shall deem any dry cask storage system method approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be an acceptable method of storing spent nuclear fuel for up to 100 years.

SEC. 2. Section 25524.1 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

~~25524.1. (a) Except for the existing Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2 owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and San Onofre Units 2 and 3 owned by Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas and Electric Company, no nuclear fission thermal powerplant requiring the reprocessing of fuel rods, including any to which this chapter does not otherwise apply, excepting any having a vested right as defined in this section, shall be permitted land use in the state or, where applicable, certified by the commission until both of the following conditions are met:~~

~~(1) The commission finds that the United States through its authorized agency has identified and approved, and there exists a technology for the construction and operation of, nuclear fuel rod reprocessing plants:~~

~~(2) The commission has reported its findings and the reasons therefor pursuant to paragraph (1) to the Legislature. That report shall be assigned to the appropriate policy committees for review. The commission may proceed to certify nuclear fission thermal powerplants 100 legislative days after reporting its findings unless within those 100 legislative days either house of the Legislature adopts by a majority vote of its~~



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~~members a resolution disaffirming the findings of the commission made pursuant to paragraph (1).~~

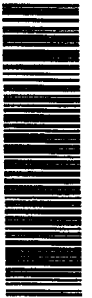
~~(3) A resolution of disaffirmance shall set forth the reasons for the action and shall provide, to the extent possible, guidance to the commission as to an appropriate method of bringing the commission's findings into conformance with paragraph (1).~~

~~(4) If a disaffirming resolution is adopted, the commission shall reexamine its original findings consistent with matters raised in the resolution. On conclusion of its reexamination, the commission shall transmit its findings in writing, with the reasons therefor, to the Legislature.~~

~~(5) If the findings are that the conditions of paragraph (1) have been met, the commission may proceed to certify nuclear fission thermal powerplants 100 legislative days after reporting its findings to the Legislature unless within those 100 legislative days both houses of the Legislature act by statute to declare the findings null and void and takes appropriate action.~~

~~(6) To allow sufficient time for the Legislature to act, the reports of findings of the commission shall be submitted to the Legislature at least six calendar months prior to the adjournment of the Legislature sine die.~~

~~(b) The commission shall further find on a case-by-case basis that facilities with adequate capacity to reprocess nuclear fuel rods from a certified nuclear facility or to store that fuel if that storage is approved by an authorized agency of the United States are in actual operation or will be in operation at the time that the nuclear facility requires reprocessing or storage; provided, however, that the storage of fuel is in an offsite~~



~~location to the extent necessary to provide continuous onsite full core reserve storage capacity.~~

~~(e) The commission shall continue to receive and process notices of intention and applications for certification pursuant to this division, but shall not issue a decision pursuant to Section 25523 granting a certificate until the requirements of this section have been met. All other permits, licenses, approvals, or authorizations for the entry or use of the land, including orders of court, which may be required may be processed and granted by the governmental entity concerned, but construction work to install permanent equipment or structures shall not commence until the requirements of this section have been met.~~

SEC. 3. Section 25524.2 of the Public Resources Code is repealed.

~~25524.2. Except for the existing Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2 owned by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and San Onofre Units 2 and 3 owned by Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas and Electric Company, no nuclear fission thermal powerplant, including any to which this chapter does not otherwise apply, but excepting those exempted herein, shall be permitted land use in the state, or where applicable, be certified by the commission until both of the following conditions have been met:~~

~~(a) The commission finds that there has been developed and that the United States through its authorized agency has approved and there exists a demonstrated technology or means for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste.~~

~~(b) (1) The commission has reported its findings and the reasons therefor pursuant to paragraph (a) to the Legislature. That report shall be assigned to the appropriate policy committees for review. The commission may proceed to certify nuclear fission~~



~~thermal powerplants 100 legislative days after reporting its findings unless within those 100 legislative days either house of the Legislature adopts by a majority vote of its members a resolution disaffirming the findings of the commission made pursuant to subdivision (a):~~

~~(2) A resolution of disaffirmance shall set forth the reasons for the action and shall provide, to the extent possible, guidance to the commission as to an appropriate method of bringing the commission's findings into conformance with subdivision (a).~~

~~(3) If a disaffirming resolution is adopted, the commission shall reexamine its original findings consistent with matters raised in the resolution. On conclusion of its reexamination, the commission shall transmit its findings in writing, with the reasons therefor, to the Legislature.~~

~~(4) If the findings are that the conditions of subdivision (a) have been met, the commission may proceed to certify nuclear fission thermal powerplants 100 legislative days after reporting its findings to the Legislature unless within those 100 legislative days both houses of the Legislature act by statute to declare the findings null and void and take appropriate action.~~

~~(5) To allow sufficient time for the Legislature to act, the reports of findings of the commission shall be submitted to the Legislature at least six calendar months prior to the adjournment of the Legislature sine die.~~

~~(e) As used in subdivision (a), "technology or means for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste" means a method for the permanent and terminal disposition of high-level nuclear waste. Nothing in this section requires that facilities for the application of that technology or means be available at the time that the commission makes its findings.~~



~~That disposition of high-level nuclear waste does not preclude the possibility of an approved process for retrieval of the waste.~~

~~(d) The commission shall continue to receive and process notices of intention and applications for certification pursuant to this division but shall not issue a decision pursuant to Section 25523 granting a certificate until the requirements of this section have been met. All other permits, licenses, approvals, or authorizations for the entry or use of the land, including orders of court, which may be required may be processed and granted by the governmental entity concerned, but construction work to install permanent equipment or structures shall not commence until the requirements of this section have been met.~~



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