Final Vote Ayes 7
Nays 0
No Committee

RESOLUTION 91-14

URGING A CHANGE IN FEDERAL POLICIES TO PERMIT USE OF SAFE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF PCBs AND URGING ABANDONMENT OF PLANS TO PUT THE INCINERATOR AND A HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL IN MONROE COUNTY

WHEREAS, current federal policies require that material contaminated with Polychlorinated Biphenals (PCBs) at a concentration in excess of 50ppm be disposed of through incineration; and

WHEREAS, the consent decree entered into in 1985 by the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, the State of Indiana, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Westinghouse Electric Corporation (Westinghouse) requires PCB contamination on sites in and around Monroe County be disposed of, at Westinghouse's expense, through use of a municipal solid waste (MSW) fueled incinerator; and

WHEREAS, this combined technology for the destruction of PCBs has never been used anywhere; and

WHEREAS, Westinghouse has failed to demonstrate that it's proposed incinerator is effective or sufficiently safe to protect the health and safety of the people of Bloomington and Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bloomington and Monroe County have understandable concerns that the emissions from such an incinerator might produce dangerous levels of toxic substances such as dioxins, furans and metals; and

WHEREAS, the mass burning of MSW is not consistent with the community's needs for long-term solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, the parties of the consent decree anticipated that a substantial portion of the ash would be non-hazardous and be disposed of at the proposed incinerator site; and

WHEREAS, it now appears that ash produced by the incinerator will be classified as a hazardous waste under Federal or State laws requiring the construction of a hazardous waste landfill in Monroe County, many miles from the proposed incinerator site; and

WHEREAS, since the signing of the consent decree in 1985, a number of new technologies for PCB disposal have come to the attention of the scientific community and the USEPA itself has investigated some of these, including application of lime, thermal desorption, and bio-remediation; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Legislature recently passed a law requiring that there be a study of the technological and economic feasibility and efficacy of various alternative PCB technologies before an application for PCB incinerator permit may be considered; and

WHEREAS, most citizens of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County oppose the use of an incinerator in Monroe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE, COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT THE COUNCIL URGES:

1. The USEPA and Department of Justice (DOJ) to change federal PCB destruction and disposal policies in order to permit the use of alternative technologies that are proven adequately safe and effective, and

2. The USEPA to conduct comparative risk assessments and environmental impact statements for the proposed O'Connor incinerator and for alternative technologies for PCB disposal, and

3. Westinghouse to abandon its plan to use the incinerator, and

[illegible]

4. Westinghouse to abandon its plan to establish a hazardous waste landfill in Monroe County, and

5. The City, County, State, and Federal leaders to further their efforts to bring about the above results.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 19 day of June, 1991.

James C Regester

James Regester, Vice President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 20 day of June, 1991.

Tomilea Allison

TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

Patricia Williams

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

Resolution urging: the USEPA and DOJ to change federal policies regarding the destruction and disposal of PCBs in order to permit use of safe and effective alternative technologies; the EPA to conduct comparative risk assessments of the O'Connor and other technologies; Westinghouse to abandon plans to place the incinerator and a hazardous waste landfill in Monroe County; and leaders at all levels of government to bring about these results.

City of
Bloomington
Indiana

Office of the
Clerk

Post Office Box 100
Municipal Building
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Telephone 812 339 2261
Extension 13

Copy

June 25, 1991

The Honorable Dan Coats
United States Senate
411 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coats:

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution 91-14 passed by the Bloomington Common Council on June 19, 1991. This resolution urges the USEPA and the Department of Justice to change federal policies regarding the destruction and disposal of PCBs in order to permit the use of safe and alternative technologies; the undertaking for a comparative risk assessment of the O'Connor and other technologies; and the abandonment of incinerator and landfill plans in Monroe County.

I am forwarding a copy of this resolution to our federal representatives, state legislators, and appropriate agencies and departments within the state and federal governments.

I know that local elected officials have met with you and members of your staff in the past to discuss our very serious concerns about the hazardous waste incinerator proposed by the Westinghouse Corporation. The text and intent of the resolution is very clear.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Patricia Williams, CLERK
City of Bloomington

Send to:
Richard Lugar
Tx McClosky
Lee Hamilton
Vi Simpson
Joe Cocran

Kern Tichnor
Jerry Baker
Mark Kruzan
Evan Bayh
Valdas Adamkus
Kathy Prosser

John Mavis
John Langley
Geoff Wood