

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 60

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Assemblywoman WEINBERG and Assemblyman ZISA

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Department
2 of Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the
3 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to take every expedient action, in
4 conjunction with the officials of this State, to continue to effectuate the
5 permanent removal of all thorium-contaminated soil from sites in Maywood
6 Borough, Rochelle Park Township, and Lodi Borough, New Jersey.

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8 WHEREAS, The radioactive metallic element thorium, a waste byproduct of
9 certain manufacturing processes that occurred on-site from 1916 to 1959
10 at the Maywood Chemical Company in Maywood, New Jersey, was
11 mixed with other substances and used as fill in several locations in
12 residential areas of Maywood Borough, and had contaminated some
13 properties in Rochelle Park Township and in Lodi Borough; and

14 WHEREAS, Because of the imminent danger this situation posed, the United
15 States Department of Energy in 1984 began a cleanup that removed
16 approximately 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from several of the
17 affected properties, and constructed the Maywood Interim Storage Site to
18 hold the contaminated soil on the site of the former Maywood Chemical
19 Company; and

20 WHEREAS, This contaminated soil is now stored on-site, shielded only by
21 plastic coverings, which are not adequate to reduce the risk of injury to the
22 health of the citizens residing in the vicinity of the Maywood Interim
23 Storage Site and to reduce the risk of harm to the environment; and

24 WHEREAS, Thorium-contaminated soil still must be removed at the site of the
25 Maywood Chemical Company, which was purchased in 1959 by the
26 Stepan Chemical Company, and at several other sites in Maywood,
27 Rochelle Park, and Lodi that were contaminated by thorium waste from the
28 Maywood Chemical Company site; and

29 WHEREAS, This widespread contamination threatens the public health, safety
30 and welfare of the citizens of these communities; and

31 WHEREAS, Although the United States Department of Energy has been slow
32 to develop a plan for the removal of this contaminated soil and the United
33 States Environmental Protection Agency has not as yet decided on a final
34 strategy for the removal of the thorium- contaminated soil from these sites,
35 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently licensed a site in the State

1 of Utah to accept this type of waste and the Department of Energy has
2 made a commitment to remove all the contaminated soil to that site; and
3 **WHEREAS**, Removal of the existing soil piles has begun and that it is imperative
4 that the removal of the thorium-contaminated soil from all these sites
5 continue unabated and that the federal government fully fund these
6 remediations in order to permanently remove all thorium-contaminated soil
7 from the Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi sites; now, therefore,

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9 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
10 (*the Senate concurring*):

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12 1. The United States Department of Energy, the United States
13 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
14 are respectfully memorialized to take every expedient action, in conjunction
15 with the officials of this State, to continue to effectuate the permanent removal
16 of all thorium-contaminated soil from the Maywood Interim Storage Site and
17 other sites in Maywood Borough, Rochelle Park Township, and Lodi
18 Borough, New Jersey.

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20 2. A duly authenticated copy of this concurrent resolution, signed by the
21 Speaker of the General Assembly and the President of the Senate and attested
22 by the Clerk of the General Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate, shall
23 be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the United States
24 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
25 the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the United States House
26 of Representatives, and to each of the members of the Congress of the United
27 States elected from New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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32 This concurrent resolution memorializes the United States Department of
33 Energy, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the federal
34 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to take every expedient action, in conjunction
35 with State officials, to continue to effectuate the permanent removal of all
36 thorium-contaminated soil from the Maywood Interim Storage Site and other
37 sites in Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi, New Jersey.

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3 Memorializes U.S. agencies to remove thorium-contaminated soil in

4 Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi, NJ.