

[First Reprint]

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**, ¹[This] The¹ contaminated soil is now stored on-site, shielded only
21 by plastic coverings, ¹and while the initial contaminated soil has been
22 removed, initial sites still exist throughout the area,¹ which ¹[are not
23 adequate to reduce] increase¹ the risk of injury to the health of the citizens
24 residing in the vicinity of the Maywood Interim Storage Site and to reduce
25 the risk of harm to the environment; and

26 ¹[**WHEREAS**, Thorium-contaminated soil still must be removed at the site of the
27 Maywood Chemical Company, which was purchased in 1959 by the
28 Stepan Chemical Company, and at several other sites in Maywood,
29 Rochelle Park, and Lodi that were contaminated by thorium waste from the

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AAW committee amendments adopted May 1, 1997.

1 Maywood Chemical Company site; and]

2 **WHEREAS**, This widespread contamination threatens the public health, safety
3 and welfare of the citizens of these communities; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Although the United States Department of Energy has been slow
5 to develop a plan for the removal of this contaminated soil and the United
6 States Environmental Protection Agency has not as yet decided on a final
7 strategy for the removal of the thorium- contaminated soil from these sites,
8 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently licensed a site in the State
9 of Utah to accept this type of waste and the Department of Energy has
10 made a commitment to remove all the contaminated soil to that site; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Removal of the existing soil piles has begun and that it is imperative
12 that the removal of the thorium-contaminated soil from all these sites
13 continue unabated and that the federal government fully fund these
14 remediations in order to permanently remove all thorium-contaminated soil
15 from the Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi sites; now, therefore,
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17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey
18 (the Senate concurring):

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20 1. The United States Department of Energy, the United States
21 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
22 are respectfully memorialized to take every expedient action, in conjunction
23 with the officials of this State, to continue to effectuate the permanent removal
24 of all thorium-contaminated soil from the Maywood Interim Storage Site and
25 other sites in Maywood Borough, Rochelle Park Township, and Lodi
26 Borough, New Jersey.

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28 2. A duly authenticated copy of this concurrent resolution, signed by the
29 Speaker of the General Assembly and the President of the Senate and attested
30 by the Clerk of the General Assembly and the Secretary of the Senate, shall
31 be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the United States
32 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
33 the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the United States House
34 of Representatives, and to each of the members of the Congress of the United
35 States elected from New Jersey.

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40 Memorializes U.S. agencies to remove thorium-contaminated soil in
41 Maywood, Rochelle Park, and Lodi, NJ.