



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 4, 2016  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Michael J. Sullivan

**House Bill No. 5382 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR SAFETY EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5382 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR SAFETY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM**. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP strongly supports this proposal to strengthen our state’s nuclear emergency preparedness.

This proposal makes changes to Section 28-31(b) of the general statutes to enhance the radiological assessment capabilities of the Nuclear Emergency Response Preparedness Program to implement recommendations for improving safety at U.S nuclear power plants made by the National Research Council based upon lessons learned from the incident at the Fukushima Nuclear Plant. The proposal will improve the ability of DEEP to monitor real-time information about routine and accident conditions at Millstone Power Station, particularly with respect to releases of radioactive material from reactors and spent fuel pools impacting communities surrounding the station and thereby improve the state’s emergency preparedness and response capabilities. Increased monitoring capabilities will improve the ability of state officials to respond to potential accidents or other emergencies at its nuclear power plants, assess the consequences of radiological releases, and implement appropriate and timely protective actions for the nearly 200,000 Connecticut residents who live within the 10-mile emergency planning zone surrounding Millstone Power Station and roughly 3,400,000 million Connecticut and regional residents who live within the 50-mile ingestion pathway zone. The municipal grant program will allow DEEP to train and maintain a pool of coordinated local emergency response volunteers with radiation expertise that would also be a valuable resource to local communities in the event of a radiation emergency.

In their report, the National Research Council recommended, “The nuclear industry and organizations with emergency management responsibilities in the United States should assess their preparedness for

severe nuclear accidents associated with offsite regional-scale disasters. Emergency response plans, including plans for communicating with affected populations, should be revised or supplemented as necessary to ensure that there are scalable and effective strategies, well-trained personnel, and adequate resources for responding to long-duration accident and/or disaster scenarios.” It is with this important responsibility in the foreground that DEEP is proposing to improve Connecticut’s capabilities with regard to oversight and emergency preparedness of its nuclear facility.

In order effectuate the purpose of this bill, DEEP requests that the following language be added to this bill.

Sec. 28-31. Nuclear safety emergency preparedness: Account; program; plan. (a) The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall establish a nuclear safety emergency preparedness account, which shall be a separate, non-lapsing account within the General Fund, and which shall be financed through assessments of all Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensees that own or operate nuclear power generating facilities in the state. The authority shall initially assess the licensees for a total of two million dollars. The authority may assess licensees for such amounts as necessary for the purposes of the account, provided the balance in the account at the end of the fiscal year may not exceed three hundred thousand dollars. The authority shall annually assess the licensees, upon the request of the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, for funding to support annual expenses of [five] ten staff positions in the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and [three] five staff positions in the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Personnel shall be assigned to said staff positions solely for the purposes of the program established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Federal reimbursements and grants obtained in support of the nuclear safety emergency preparedness program shall be paid into the General Fund and credited to the account. The authority shall develop an equitable method of assessing the licensees for their reasonable pro rata share of such assessments. All such assessments shall be included as operating expenses of the licensees for purposes of rate-making. All moneys within the account shall be invested by the State Treasurer in accordance with established investment practices and all interest earned by such investments shall be returned to the account.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP’s Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov) .