

Support of Nuclear Energy

WHEREAS, continuing into the new millennium, 20 percent of the United States' consumed electricity and 14 percent of Canada's consumed electricity is generated by nuclear power; and

WHEREAS, 103 operating United States' nuclear power plants provided 782 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to consumers in 2005 while comprising 10 percent of the nations energy capacity as nuclear energy production costs continue to decline; and

WHEREAS, 443 nuclear power plants supply 16 percent of the world's electricity needs while avoiding 500 million tons of carbon annually; and

WHEREAS, about 15,000 IBEW members are directly employed to operate, maintain, and provide support at 69 operating nuclear power reactors; and

WHEREAS, about 70,000 IBEW members and other building trade workers are temporarily used as contractors or vendor specialty crews to provide service and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, IBEW members have the required skills to construct, operate and maintain nuclear power plants within the stringent regulatory requirements employed as federally mandated trustworthy and reliable workers while achieving record levels of nuclear plant capacity factors and safe performance records at these facilities; and

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO has shown its support for nuclear energy because of its critical role as an emission free source of electricity that is helping our nations cope with the rising concerns of greenhouse gases and global climate change as the nations nuclear plants avoid the emissions each year of 5.3 million tons of sulfur dioxide, 2.5 million tons of nitrogen oxides, and 168 million metric tons of carbon; and

WHEREAS, nuclear energy is a practical and economical large-scale source of electricity available today that does not pollute the air, nor produce carbon dioxide as 403,000 mega watts of new generating capacity will be needed in the United States by 2020 while energy costs are expected to increase by 45 percent by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The Energy Policy Act of 2005 increases the research and development of hydrogen technology research using nuclear energy to provide avenues to United States energy independence, and further providing loan guarantees and production tax credits for new nuclear power plants becoming operational;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 37th International Convention support:

1. Legislation that creates an integrated, environmentally sound, secure, high-level radioactive waste system that ensures timely central storage, safe transportation, and permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuels and nuclear by-products; and

Support of Nuclear Energy ~ Continued

2. The siting, construction and operation of environmentally sound low-level radioactive waste facilities; and
3. Regulatory reform which makes the regulatory process more objective and efficient, while ensuring safety and maintaining production; and
4. Continued partnership between private industry and the federal government in research and development of standardized advanced reactor designs which will improve safety, economy and performance to help meet increasing electricity demand; and
5. Continued partnerships between private industry and agencies supporting the role of providing a well trained workforce to support the nuclear energy industry; and
6. A regulatory framework that does not create unnecessary delays in the licensing and construction of future generation nuclear power plants, including standardized plant designs.

SUBMITTED BY: Local Union 50, Richmond, Virginia

ENDORSED BY: Local Union 15, Naperville, Illinois
Local Union 304, Topeka, Kansas
Local Union 627, Port St. Lucie, Florida
Local Union 2286, Beaumont, Texas

Statement of Committee: The committee has combined Resolution Nos. 1 (Alternative Energy Sources) and 31 (Support of Nuclear Energy), since they both deal with renewable energy sources. Both Canada and the United States have seen the cost of energy skyrocket over the last few years, and both countries acknowledge the need to reduce their dependence on current fossil fuel technology. Each resolution encourages research and development of energy sources that are inexpensive, clean and safe, therefore the committee recommends **CONCURRENCE**.

Alternative Energy Sources

WHEREAS, fossil fuels are the main sources of electric generation and transportation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this form of energy is not renewable at the rate at which we are consuming it and, therefore, will not last forever; and

WHEREAS, excessive use of these fuels have led to serious air pollution, global warming, and significant health threats to the population; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate, in 2005, recognized the growing scientific consensus that global warming is real and poses a likely risk of severe environmental consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Parliament, under its Energy Efficiency Act, is encouraging and assisting in design, development and deployment of advanced technologies for power generation from fossil fuels with increased efficiency, and reduction and ultimate elimination of environmental emissions of NO_x, SO, CO₂ and Mercury; and

WHEREAS, alternative, sustainable energy sources are either currently available or being developed, such as solar and wind energy, wave and tidal generators, as well as biofuels and gas from agricultural waste, and should be major components of our country's energy future; and

WHEREAS, increasing the deployment of advanced clean coal technology like integrated gasification and coal-to-liquids, in conjunction with carbon capture and storage approaches will provide avenues to United States energy independence and green house gas emissions reductions; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 encourages the use of these alternative energy sources by providing funding and tax credits for research and development of alternative energy sources and technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 further encourages the use of renewable energies by creating as sales and tax exemption for individuals who purchase hybrid motor vehicles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the IBEW supports research and development of alternative energy resources as well as the rapid implementation and integration of the technologies into the energy pipeline of North America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that through organizing, training and superior product quality, members of the IBEW will be on the forefront of these evolving technologies and will take the major role in the production, installation and maintenance

of the new alternative energy supply and its distribution facilities in the United States and Canada.

SUBMITTED BY: Local Union 304, Topeka, Kansas

ENDORSED BY: Local Union 15, Naperville, Illinois
Local Union 50, Richmond, Virginia
Local Union 627, Port St. Lucie, Florida
Local Union 2286, Beaumont, Texas

Statement of Committee: Combined with Support of Nuclear Energy.