



State Sen. Steve Fowler, Lincoln, has proposed a legislative bill which would halt construction of new nuclear power plants in Nebraska.

Power bill would halt nuclear plant building

The lights will not go on in any new nuclear power plants in Nebraska if State Sen. Steve Fowler of Lincoln gets his way.

Fowler has introduced a bill which would prevent construction on any new nuclear power plants in the state.

He said problems which could arise from nuclear power production were pointed out to him by his administrative assistant, Rich Lombardi.

Nuclear power plants in Nebraska are at Ft. Calhoun and Brownville and proposals have been made for two more, Lombardi said.

He said there is concern over more nuclear power plants because of potential dangers that haven't been explored completely.

The emergency core cooling system, which cools the reactor if the main cooling system fails has never been fully tested for safety, Lombardi said.

If the emergency system failed, the reactor could melt and radiation would be given off, he said, adding that it would affect people within a 100-mile radius of the reactor.

He said there also has been concern over low-level radiation given off at the plants. Some reports have shown this radiation could cause cancer, he added.

Radioactive waste is now shipped to New York to be stored, but "if they run out of room a storage system will have to be found somewhere else," Lombardi said.

Both Nebraska plants have exceeded their projected costs two and one-half times, he said.

Lombardi said if the bill passes it will allow more research to be done.

Fowler said he is not sure how the bill will fare in the Legislature since it is a new subject.

Education and information is necessary before the senators will make a decision, Fowler said.

Rob Aiken, chairman of an ASUN environmental task force, said he has prepared a pamphlet on the hazards of nuclear power production.

He said the pamphlet will be distributed on campus, to special interest groups and to the public.

A public hearing for the bill will be held March 6, at 2:00.

Varner proposes funding for SUN

NU President D.B. Varner told the State University of Nebraska (SUN) Advisory Council Thursday he would recommend to the Board of Regents that they approve \$200,000 to \$300,000 for SUN operating expenses.

The money would come from the state general fund to permit SUN to continue to make a college education available to all Nebraskans, he said. The SUN Advisory Council also passed a resolution recommending state funding.

The money to operate SUN will be necessary when the program is separated from the University of Mid-America (UMA) on April 1, according to Milan Wall, SUN regional planning coordinator.

UMA, an experiment in adult open learning, is a regional outgrowth of the SUN project. Its members are Kansas University, University of Missouri, Kansas State University, Iowa State University and NU.

Report to be ready by April Lawyer investigating LPD

By Lori Demo

He is a former president of the Nebraska Assoc. of Trial Attorneys, a fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and governor of the Assoc. of Trial Lawyers of America.

But probably more important to Lincolniters, Lincoln attorney M.J. Bruckner is the man heading the Lincoln City Council's investigation of Lincoln Police Dept. (LPD) policies and procedures concerning alcohol-related offenses.

Bruckner, 40, was chosen in late January by the City Council to investigate charges that LPD denies suspects their constitutional rights, harasses people frequenting taverns and private parties and unnecessarily detains people in jail.

90 people to testify

He began his work three weeks ago and said by the end of this week "close to 90 people" will have testified in the investigation.

Most of his work is done at night and on weekends, he said. Most nights he hears testimony from citizens until 10 p.m.

So far, Bruckner said, he has had "excellent cooperation" from the City Council and the City Legal Dept.

The Lincoln Alcohol Safety Action Project (LASAP) has given him everything he asked for, he said. He has statistics on people counseled there through November, but is waiting for December figures.

"But I don't know if the LASAP figures make that much difference," Bruckner said.

April 1 deadline

He said he hopes all people will have testified by March 15 so he can start preparing the report, to present to the council by April 1.

He expects more than 100 people will have testified by that time. Not many of the people testifying ask to remain anonymous, Bruckner said.

Bill Blake, a UNL law student, is helping Bruckner by researching legal aspects and by riding in the LASAP counter-measure unit which

contains the breathalyzer unit. Blake also is attending the same LASAP counter-measure school which LASAP officers must attend, he said.

\$50 per hour

Bruckner said he is not sure why the Council chose him for the job, which pays \$50 per hour.

"I didn't apply," he said. "The council asked me if I'd be interested and I said I would be willing."

He said the council may have chosen him because of his experience as a trial lawyer.

"I've been through it all," Bruckner said. "There is a right way to do things. I have to know what that is."

City Councilwoman Sue Bailey agreed with Bruckner. She said they wanted someone who knew the law, who had some experience in investigation and who would "be perceived by the public to be objective."

Bruckner fit all these categories, she said.

Creighton graduate

A 1958 graduate of the Creighton College of Law, Bruckner spent four and one-half years practicing law in Omaha and has been a member of the Lincoln law firm Marti, Dolton, Bruckner, O'Gara and Keating since 1964.

Because of the time-consuming investigation Bruckner said he has been excused from any trials until he is finished.

In 1971 Bruckner represented a UNL faculty committee which conducted hearings on Stephen L. Rozman, a former UNL political science assistant professor. Rozman lost his case against the NU Board of Regents, which did not rehire him in February 1971. The regents claimed Rozman acted inappropriately during anti-war activities in May 1970.

Bailey said one of the reasons Bruckner was chosen was because "his practice has not brought him into this field (of police and their alcohol-related activities), so he shouldn't have formed any prejudices."



M. J. Bruckner, a Lincoln attorney investigating local police policy on alcohol-related arrests.

Four new courses

The SUN Advisory Council also reviewed SUN's plans to offer four courses for college home study beginning March 2, according to Council Chairman Thomas Keating of Hastings.

SUN will continue the introductory psychology course and accounting course it began last fall.

The courses beginning March 2 include The Consumer Experience and Making It Count. The Consumer Experience is a practical approach to consumer problem-solving, Wall said. Making It Count will be an introduction to computer science, he said.

All four courses include television segments, newspaper articles and instructional materials, according to Wall.

Pilot classes evaluated

The council also heard evaluations of SUN's pilot offerings of introductory

psychology and accounting.

According to a report published by the SUN Office of Research and Evaluation, a total of 680 persons were enrolled in both courses during their first offerings. More than 90 per cent of those taking the first two tests in both classes passed the tests.

The report said the age-range of enrollees was from a "gifted 13-year-old to 70." Eighty-five per cent of all those enrolled were older than 24.

A 1974 market survey of SUN enrollees said the most popular reason chosen to take SUN courses was "to increase my general knowledge."

Rowena Young, member of the SUN Advisory Council and SUN students, said the program is important because it offers persons over 30, who can't go to the university, a chance to continue their education.