

RES 16-033

Wilmington, Delaware  
May 5, 2016

#4204

Sponsors:

Council  
President  
Gregory

Council  
Member  
Shabazz

**WHEREAS**, plans are in place to construct a new power line connecting the Artificial Island nuclear complex and the State of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, the new power line, which would enhance the stability of the nuclear complex, was originally estimated to cost \$137 million – a cost that has risen in recent weeks to an estimated \$272 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of the project, which is being overseen by the Pennsylvania-based firm PJM, will be covered by Delaware’s residential, commercial and industrial companies – including customers of Public Service Electric & Gas and Delmarva Power & Light; and

**WHEREAS**, while Delawareans will be saddled with paying 99 percent of the cost, they will reap a mere 10 percent of the benefits of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Public Service Commission has estimated that this cost could add several dollars per month to residential bills, as well as hundreds of thousands in additional payments to business and industrial customers; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware Public Advocate David Bonar and Governor Jack Markell have advocated for a more equitable distribution of the costs of this project, speaking on behalf of the Delawareans who would be footing this massive bill; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Federal Energy Regulation Commission – in response to a complaint filed by Delaware – issued a preliminary decision in favor of Delaware in November 2015, the agency recently reversed this position in its final report; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wilmington City Council wishes to join the voices of other Delaware leaders in opposing this proposed cost distribution, given the impact it would have on Wilmington’s residents and businesses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON**, that the Council strongly opposes the cost distribution devised for the construction of the new power line connecting Artificial Island with Delaware, and urges project leaders and utilities to reconsider saddling Delawareans with the financial burden of a project that will, according to their own projections, do remarkably little for residents of the First State.

Passed by City Council,  
May 5, 2016

Attest: Maribel Seijo  
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 3<sup>rd</sup>  
day of May, 2016.

  
Assistant City Solicitor