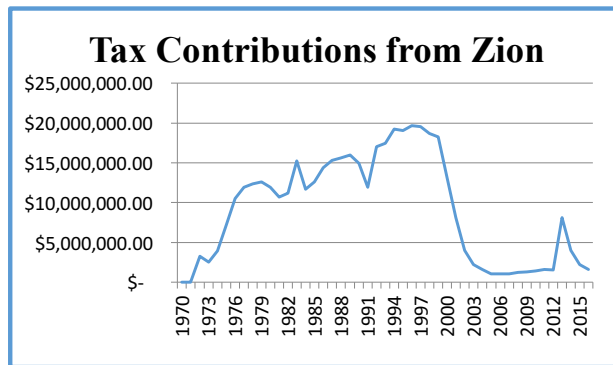


Zion Nuclear Power Plant

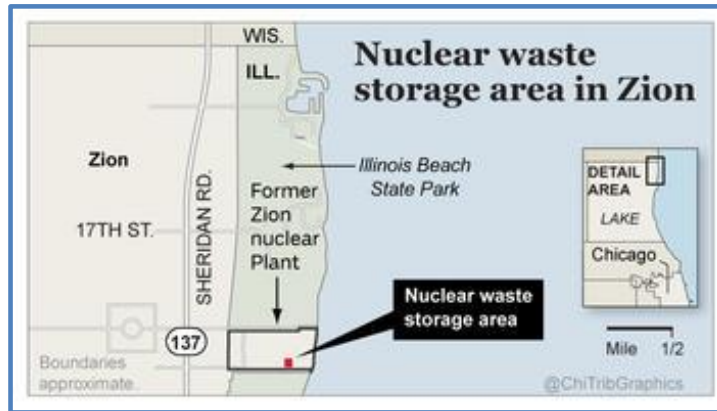
25 years after being built on the shore of Lake Michigan, the Zion Power Plant was forced to retire in 1998 following a sudden shutdown due to operator error, far earlier than the NRC-given license anticipated. Questions soon arose about where the spent nuclear fuel would be transferred to and who would pay for it. Currently, the residents of Zion are footing the bill, causing property taxes and concerns about nuclear waste to rise dramatically. This has prompted many local officials to branch out for help from federal representatives.

Tax Hits

From the time of closure in 1998, the tax contribution from the Zion Nuclear Power Plant have dropped drastically to the less than 10% of what it had been at its peak in 1997. This burden has been shifted to the residents of the city of Zion, with city documents citing a 143% increase in property tax. David Knabel, the city's finance director has noted that it will be tough for the city to attract new investors and businesses with tax rates "going through the roof."



Zion Nuclear Power Plant in 1997



A Nuclear Waste of Time

The residents of Zion are currently fighting the prospect of having spent nuclear fuel sitting on their lakefront for years. The upset city believes they should be compensated for

becoming a storage area for this fuel that is hindering the redevelopment of the 257 acres of lakefront property where the plant was built. Currently, the firm handling decommissioning has removed the last of the large components of the plant for transport to a waste disposal facility. However, the casks containing spent fuel remain for an indefinite period. The community of Zion along with their mayor, Al Hill, believed the government would accept the waste and ship it to Yucca Mountain in Nevada. They are now leading the push for legislation that would give compensation for communities like their own that have turned into “de facto storage facilities.” The compensation would allow for communities to make up for land that could not be redeveloped and the lowered property value of the nuclear power plant area.

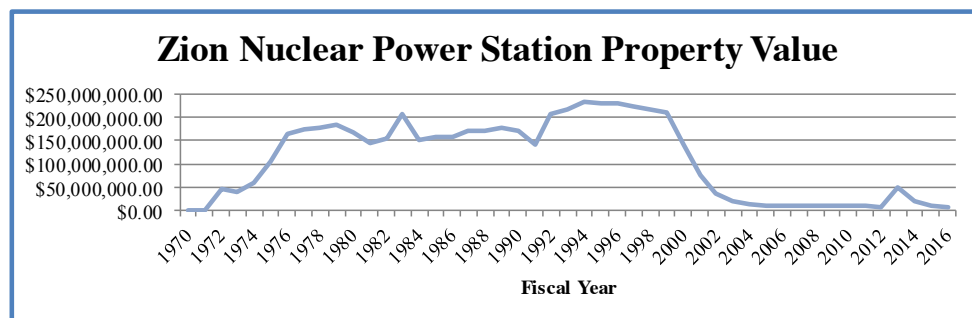


Table: 1 showing drop in property value