

# Pueblo County Commission rejects land proposal for nuclear power plant

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PUEBLO — The plan to build a nuclear power plant on the outskirts of this industrial city was rejected by the Pueblo County Commission due to "a significant lack of material information."

The proposal by prominent, local attorney Don Banner would have taken 24,000 acres and turned it into a planned unit development area for energy development.

The 3-0 vote brought cheers and applause from the audience of about 100 people.

"This decision should send a message to nuclear everywhere," said Ross Vincent, chairman of the Sierra Club Sangre de Cristo Group.

Banner sought rezoning, planned unit designation and a guarantee those land-use changes could not be rescinded.

The plan, however, lacked any detail on what kind of plant would be built, who would build it or where resources such as cooling water would come from.

The Banner proposal provoked a debate in the county on balance between economic development and jobs on one side and environmental concerns on the other.

"At some place and at some time nuclear will be appropriate," said Commissioner Jeff Chostner. "But I don't think this is the place or this is the time."

Chostner said the demands the plant would make on the region's limited water supply was the main reason for opposing the plan.

Chostner did add that Banner, a civic leader, "is a good man who worked for the community."

Commissioner Anthony Nunez also expressed concerns about nuclear wastes building up at the site since the federal government has yet to come up with a long-term storage plan.

"Before we get into this business we want to ask some questions so we don't get into trouble later," Nunez said.

Daniel Kogovsek, the county attorney, in proposing the motion to reject the plan said there was not enough information to meet county requirements for a planned unit designation.

It was impossible to determine if the project would be compatible with the surrounding area, Kogovsek said.

"It is the decision they made," Banner said after the vote. "If they had passed it, it would have meant a lot of work. I'll move on now and do something else."

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