

the powers and authority conferred by other laws upon the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and may not be regarded as in derogation of any powers now existing in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.

Approved May 19, 1981.

CHAPTER 551

(Senate Bill 574)

AN ACT concerning

Nuclear Power Plants - Waste Disposal Certification

~~FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Public Service Commission from issuing a certificate of public convenience or necessity for the construction of any nuclear power plant unless the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene certifies that certain criteria have been satisfied, defining high level nuclear waste, prohibiting the construction of a nuclear power plant until such certification, providing for public hearings, providing for the General Assembly to disaffirm the Secretary's findings under certain conditions, requiring certain State agencies to cooperate with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in evaluating any technology or means for the permanent disposal of high level nuclear waste, and generally relating to the availability of certain means for the disposal of high level nuclear waste and the construction of nuclear power plants in this State.~~

FOR the purpose of defining high level nuclear waste, and requiring that the Public Service Commission consider the availability of means for disposing of high level nuclear waste wastes produced by any fossil fuel or nonfossil fuel generating station in any proceeding on the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity for certain nuclear generating plants.