**Watchdog Opposes “Reorganization” of Bankrupt Pennsylvania Nuclear Power Plant;**

**Epstein Opposes Bitcoin Bailout for Reactor**

November 29, 2022

Nuclear watchdog Eric Epstein appealed Talen Energy Solutions proposal to bail out the bankrupt Susquehanna Steam Electric Plant.

Mr. Epstein sited two legal hurdles Talen Energy failed to clear.

Mr. Epstein argued, “Talen’s proposal does not address the core issues at the nuclear power plant that caused a financial meltdown. The fact that no management changes are proposed means that the name of the corporate captain of this nuclear Titanic will change, but the sinking vessel will remain intact.”

Talen Energy is betting on its bitcoin data mining campus “to positively impact supply and demand dynamics for the Debtors by providing a stable, long-term source of revenue for the Nuclear Plant, enabling its longevity .” (Talen, “Disclosure Statement”, p. 30.)

Mr. Epstein pointed out that, “In the middle of the bankruptcy proceeding, Talen Energy stopped construction of its bitcoin mine – the financial staple of reorganization - on the property of its nuclear power plant.”\*

Mr. Epstein said, “The proposed License Transfer is built on a fatally flawed business plan, which will erode financial solvency. The storage of high-level radioactive waste for an indefinite period of time by a bankrupt company is a prescription for disaster.”

Mr. Epstein argued two parts of NRC law need to be addressed:

1) The Applicant’s current debt ($1.5042 billion) and approximate recovery (17.7% to 34.5%) does not allow for the “New Parent” or “Reorganized Talen” to provide adequate “financial assurances.” “Reorganized Talen” is financially vulnerable, as evinced by the current bankruptcy proceeding, and must provide a surety to supplement the Decommissioning Trust Fund.

2) The NRC is charged with establishing a Bankruptcy Review Team (“BRT”) to review, and act on bankruptcy notifications when they occur. The timeline for bankruptcy has been set in motion, but frozen at the proposed “Disclosure Statement” stage. The NRC’s Bankruptcy Team’s Review is premature, and must be postponed until this matter is fully adjudicated.

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\* Talen’s initial “expectation” was to bring the Susquehanna Hyperscale Campus online in the second quarter of 2022. Talen revised its “expectation,” and announced it would start mining bitcoin by the end of 2022. Talen announced on August 17, 2022 that the construction has been suspended due to "circumstances out of our control."