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COAL CITY COURANT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Unit 1 School District:

GE-Hitachi should be assessed at over \$200 billion

The Coal City Community Unit School District 1 Board of Education is filing a complaint against the assessed value of the GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Morris Operation which it believes is under assessed.

The board directed the superintendent and chief school business officer to file the complaint with the Grundy County Board of Review.

The action came during a special meeting of the Board of Education on Thursday morning, November 30.

"Our state's entire system of real property taxation is based on the premise that every property owner should pay their fair share," explained Board President Ken P. Miller. "To the extent that any property owner pays less than their fair share, every other property owner pays more. GE-Hitachi is not paying its fair share and the only way to correct that inequity is through an assessment complaint."

The GE-Hitachi Morris Operation was originally constructed by GE to reprocess spent nuclear fuel but that did not happen. Instead, the site has operated as a spent fuel storage facility and, for more than 50 years, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy has been providing nuclear plant operators from around the country with storage space at its facility on Collins Road in Goose Lake Township.

The facility's deep water pools hold 3,217 fuel assemblies, that's 773



UNIT 1 SCHOOL DISTRICT wants the GE-Hitachi plant located off Dresden Road to pay its fair share of property taxes, filing a complaint alleging it assessed value should be more like \$200 billion, not \$6.13 million is is being assessed now.

metric tons or 1.7 million pounds of spent nuclear fuel. The majority of that was shipped to the facility from nuclear generating facilities located

in California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Nebraska, as well as some from the neighboring Dresden Nuclear Generating Station.

The GE-Hitachi Morris Operation, located within the boundaries of the Coal City School District, is the only permanent high-level

nuclear waste storage site in the nation. There is no other property like it anywhere in the country.

"The Unit 1 Board of Education is mindful of its obligation to treat all property taxpayers fairly and equitably - not only commercial and industrial properties, but homeowners as well," said Superintendent Christopher Spencer.

"The Board of Education firmly believes that GE-Hitachi is not paying its fair share of the property taxes required to educate our schoolchildren and that is unfair to homeowners and small businesses."

The Board of Education previously filed objections to the assessed value of the spent nuclear fuel storage facility in tax years 2021 and 2022. For tax year 2021, the county's three-member Board of Review increased the assessed value of the site from \$3.2 million to \$6.13 million.

There was no change in the assessed value in 2022 and, when the assessor published the county's assessments on November 8, the assessed value for 2023 was once again at the Board of Review's 2021 amount of \$6.13 million.

The county's assessment is based on the cost approach that sets value based on replacement cost. However, there is no property any-

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Sharing the songs of the season

Coal City Madrigals will put you in the Christmas mood

Like the royals that have come before them, King Jared and Queen Elaina are preparing for the upcoming holiday with a grand soiree and they will open the doors to the castle for the Coal City High School Madrigals 25th holiday performance.

Established in 1998, Madrigals is a unique program within the school's music department consisting of a select group of student vocalists who mainly perform 15th and 16th Century a cappella music.

In keeping with the tra-

ditions of the 15th Century, the modern day royals will host a celebration full of merriment—singing, dancing and raising a cup in celebration of the king. And at these celebrations there was feasting, so this year one of the three performances will provide guests with an opportunity to graze across a table filled with

SEE MADRIGALS PAGE 2

THE COAL CITY High School Madrigal choir will host its annual holiday performances this weekend Dec. 8-10— in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. The 25-member hour consists of a select group of student vocalists who mainly perform 15th and 16th Century a cappella music during the holiday season. The group recently visited Coal City Elementary School to share the songs of the season.



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