

Lu launches new petition for nuclear referendum

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Former vice president Annette Lu, first right, accompanied by Democratic Progressive Party city councilors, speaks at a press conference in Taipei yesterday in which she launched a petition for a nuclear referendum to oppose the government's own proposed referendum.

Photo: Wang Min-wei, Taipei Times

As part of ongoing opposition to the government's nuclear policy Former vice president Annette Lu (呂秀蓮) yesterday launched a petition in Taipei for a nuclear referendum to decide whether fuel rods should be inserted into the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant in New Taipei City's (新北市) Gongliao District (公寮).

Lu, joined by several Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Taipei City councilors, said the Taipei City Council passed a regulation on civil referendums in Taipei, and she expected to collect 15,000 signatures in the city for her proposed referendum to be approved.

A similar referendum she proposed in New Taipei City was rejected by the Executive Yuan's Referendum Review Committee last month, which said the issue "concerns energy policy affecting the nation's electricity supply, power reserves, industrial sectors, environment and other important matters" and is "an important national policy matter not suitable for a local referendum."

She slammed the Executive Yuan yesterday over the rejection, and said she will file an administrative lawsuit against the committee or request a constitutional interpretation.

In launching the petition for a proposed nuclear referendum in Taipei City, the former vice president said that residents living within the evacuation zone of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant, including Taipei, New Taipei City, Keelung City and Yilan County, should have the right

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to determine whether they want to face threats of a possible failure at the plant.

“President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) failed to mention the nuclear waste issue during his nuclear trip and he did not talk about the fact that Taiwan is in a seismic zone. His remarks are meant to mislead the public,” she said at the Taipei City Council.

She said the Ma administration should stop attempting to coerce the public into approving construction of the Fourth nuclear Power Plant, and urged the government to speed up the development of solar power and other alternative energy sources.

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