

Nazi march ruling due in 30 days

The U.S. Court of Appeals announced Thursday it will rule within 30 days on the legality of a proposed march by neo-Nazis in Skokie.

The court said, in effect, that a sooner ruling was unnecessary because the Nazi group hasn't yet applied for a parade permit, and under a Skokie ordinance such an application must be made at least 30 days in advance of the marching date.

The court had been expected to rule on the question of whether the neo-Nazis could

march while appealing a 45-day cooling-off period set by U.S. District Court Judge Bernard M. Decker.

But, the Appeals Court said Decker's "stay appears unnecessary" because of provisions of the Skokie ordinance and it also "raises some serious constitutional questions."

Instead of ruling on the legality of a parade during the cooling-off period, the Appeals Court said it will rule on the broader constitutional question of the neo-Nazi group's right to march.

In its ruling, the Appeals Court vacated Decker's order of March 17, which established the 45-day cooling-off period.

A spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, which has represented the neo-Nazi group in the courts, said he hadn't spoken to its leader Frank Collin but that a request for a parade permit is likely soon.

The spokesman said the group hadn't filed for the permit earlier because the members thought such action would be futile.

All eight Appeals Court judges participated in Thursday's decision, with two of the judges dissenting from the majority position. The dissenters were Judges Luther M. Swygert and Robert A. Sprecher.