

City of Toledo
City Council Office
One Government Center, Suite 2140
Toledo, OH 43604



Date: September 27, 2013
To: President Hick-Hudson, Members of Council
From: Councilman Joe McNamara
Subject: Proposed Deep Geological Repository near Lake Huron

Dear President Hick-Hudson and Members of Council,

As you may know, Ontario Power Generation and the Canadian Nuclear regulators are considering a proposal to create a major underground nuclear waste storage site on the eastern shore of Lake Huron. Radioactive wastes from 20 reactors would be placed within caverns carved from limestone in a burial site about one-half mile beneath the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station near Kincardine, Ontario. The proposed experiment (there is no precedent for burying radioactive waste in limestone) has been labeled Deep Geological Repository (DGR).

The planned DGR at the Bruce nuclear facility is within a mile of the Lake Huron shoreline. Any leakage of radioactive waste from this site is likely to reach Lake Huron and have a drastic impact downstream, an area which includes the City of Toledo's water supply in Lake Erie. Many people, including citizens and activists, are very concerned about the potential impact this could have on our water supply.

The proposed facility poses a significant threat to the people in Northwest Ohio who rely on Lake Erie for their water. The City of Toledo has a direct and pressing interest in this proposal. A strong statement from a major city downstream of the proposed site could be persuasive to the Canadian regulators.

I hope you join me and support this resolution to oppose the proposed underground nuclear waste storage site near Kincardine, Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe McNamara'.

Joe McNamara

RES. 460-13

Opposing the proposed Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate-level radioactive wastes near Kincardine, Ontario, or any other underground repository near the shores of any of the Great Lakes including connecting waterways; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contain over 20% of the world's fresh surface water, and 95% of that of North America vital to human and environmental health; and

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is a vital resource for an estimated 3 million Ohioans who rely on Lake Erie as their source for safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are vital to the economic and agricultural well being of the area and the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Lake Huron via the St. Clair River/Lake St. Clair and Detroit River supplies 95% of Lake Erie's water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Toledo strongly values the water quality of Lake Erie and the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Toledo drinking water intake is in Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, United States Federal Act 204 of 1987 created Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority (LLRWA) which established a facility sitting process in 1989 which effectively excludes any site "located within 10 miles of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, St. Mary's River, Detroit River, St. Clair River or Lake St. Clair;" and

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation is proposing to construct an underground long term burial facility for all of Ontario's Low and Intermediate radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, some of which is highly radioactive and much of which will remain toxic for over 100,000 years. The proposed repository, less than one mile inland from the shore of Lake Huron and roughly 4400 yards below lake level, is approximately 120 miles upstream from the main drinking water supply of southeast Michigan and approximately 145 miles upstream from Toledo/Oregon drinking water intakes; and

WHEREAS, this type of repository is not found anywhere else within the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, placing a permanent nuclear waste facility so close to the Great Lakes is ill advised. The potential damage to the Great Lakes from any leak or breach of radioactivity far outweighs any benefits that could be derived from burying radioactive waste at this site. The ecology of the lakes, which is valuable beyond measure to the health and economic welfare of the entire region, should not be placed at any risk by strong radioactive waste so close to the shoreline; NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the City Council of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Toledo City Council, in order to protect the Great Lakes and their tributaries, urges that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository at the Bruce nuclear Generating Station nor any other underground nuclear waste repository be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin.

SECTION 2. That Toledo City Council urges Canadian officials to find alternatives to Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury nuclear waste in the Great Lakes basin watershed where 90% of Lake Erie's water comes from Lake Huron.

SECTION 3. On behalf of the Citizens of Toledo, Ohio, copies of this Resolution will be provided to Governor Kasich, all Lake Erie Basin federal and state elected officials, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wayne, and Michael Binder, President and CEO of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution is declared to be an emergency measure and shall be in force and effect from and after its passage. The reasons for the emergency are in the fact that this Resolution is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and property and for the further reason that this issue needs the immediate attention of Toledo City Council in order to protect one of the City's most important natural resources.

Vote on emergency clause: yeas 12, nays 0.

Adopted: October 1, 2013, as an emergency measure: yeas 12, nays 0.

Attest:

Gerald E. Dendinger
Clerk of Council

Paula Hicks-Hudson
President of Council

Approved:

October 3, 2013
Michael P. Bell
Mayor