

RESOLUTION

No. 2013-546

Sponsored by Commissioner Varga

Co-sponsored by Commissioners Killeen, Basham, Bell, Clark-Coleman, Palamara,
Scott and Ware

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation is proposing to construct an underground, long-term burial facility for all of Ontario's low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station; and

WHEREAS, Lake Huron and the Great Lakes are some of Michigan most vital natural resources, containing 95 percent of North America's surface fresh water and providing drinking water to millions of individuals and this type of waste repository is unprecedented and most likely will present danger to our lakes and environment; and

WHEREAS, given the proximity and potential impact on Michigan residents, it is necessary for Canadian and Ontario officials, and all relevant government agencies, to ensure open communication and information to be shared over this proposal and extension of the public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of nuclear waste is a pressing issue for society worldwide as potential health and safety concerns require nuclear waste be stored in a controlled and secure manner as some materials retain half of their dangerous properties thousands of years after production; and

WHEREAS, as the production of nuclear waste proliferates, maintaining the integrity of its storage becomes more difficult and creates opportunities for processing weapons capable of causing horrific damage and resulting in loss of life; and

WHEREAS, radiation is a carcinogen and exposure increases the probability of an individual contracting cancer and producing genetic defects in children of mothers who have been exposed to radiation during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, pristine water is necessary for fishing, boating, tourism and agriculture in Michigan and throughout this region and an unforeseen accident, or leak, at the deep underground repository could severely damage our Great Lakes, which contain approximately 20 percent of the world's surface

supply of fresh water and are one of the most important natural resources in the world;

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on this 22nd day in August 2013, the Wayne County Commission states its opposition to this proposed burial of radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station – the entrance of which is less than one mile from Lake Huron – as these contaminated materials have the potential of causing harm to the Great Lakes watershed, of affecting our food chain, and most importantly, of creating life-threatening health issues for individuals exposed.

(2013-66-037)