

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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RESOLUTION 13-18

SUPPORTING SENATE RESOLUTION 50
REGARDING PROPOSED UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY

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, some of which is long-lived intermediate waste. This site, less than a mile inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 440 yards below the lake level, is approximately 120 miles upstream from the main drinking water intakes for Southeast Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Lake Huron and the other Great Lakes are critically important resources to both the United States and Canada. The Great Lakes contain 95 percent of North America's surface fresh water and proved drinking water to tens of millions of people. Pristine water is important to fishing, boating, recreation, tourism and agriculture in Michigan and throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, As part of an effort to protect water quality, Michigan's siting criteria for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste prohibits any site located within ten miles of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Saint Mary's River, Detroit River, St. Clair River, or Lake St. Clair. It also excludes sites located within a 500-year floodplain, located over a sole source aquifer, or located where the hydrogeology beneath the site discharges groundwater to the land surface within 3,000 feet of the boundaries of the site; and

WHEREAS, International agreements between the U.S. and Canada state that radiological contamination should be reduced and emphasize the concept of prevention. We encourage Canada, as part of its public review process, to make known the steps that have been or will be taken to fulfill the requirements of these agreements; and

WHEREAS, Siting an underground nuclear waste repository in limestone, as proposed by Ontario Power Generation, is the first of its kind, the environmental impact statement for this proposed nuclear waste burial facility noted that the acceptability of an alternative site was "unknown". We encourage the use of sound scientific principles and analyses in determining whether this geologic formation is appropriate for the safe long-term storage of radioactive waste and that this scientific data, along with information regarding the alternative sites that were considered, be made available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners does hereby support Senate Resolution No. 58 and urge the United States Congress to take action to address Michigan's concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Senator Pavlov, Representatives Muxlow, LaFontaine and Lauwers; Congresswoman Miller, and Representatives Levin and Stabenow.

Dated: August 15, 2013

Reviewed and Approved As To Form By:



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