

MAY 09 2011

Town of Louisburg

Office of the Mayor

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State of North Carolina

RESOLUTION OPPOSING LIFTING THE BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA THAT POSES AN ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT TO THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN AND TO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA LIVING IN THE BASIN

WHEREAS, the Town of Louisburg recognizes that a healthy and sustainable environment is important to the citizens, the economy and the need for supply of Quality water in the Basin; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Town of Louisburg is to support strategies and developments that enhance the preservation and use of the Roanoke River Basin's resources for now and future generations of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, there is a proposed uranium mining and milling operation at Coles Hill in Pittsylvania County, VA, which would require lifting the current ban on such operations in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2011, the City of Virginia Beach released the findings of its study of impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling on its water supply coming from Lake Gaston; and

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia Beach study concluded that in the event of a mill tailing confinement cell failure, the tailings will be washed downstream and will significantly impact water quality in Kerr Lake Reservoir and Lake Gaston resulting in radiation levels in the water 10-20 times above the Safe Drinking Water Act levels; and


WHEREAS, the Town of Louisburg recognizes that the event modeled in the City of Virginia Beach study is rare but the magnitude of potential impacts on the Basin's eco-system and the communities is too great to leave it to chance; and

WHEREAS, because of the presence of the uranium mill in the Basin that can be used to process ore mined at other mining sites in the Basin and/or throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, including but not limited to Orange, Madison, Fauquier, Culpeper, Patrick, and Floyd Counties, the Basin that serves as a drinking water source for over one million people could face increased risks associated with uranium mining, milling, and storage of radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, the best available scientific information indicated that the social, environmental, health and economic impacts of proposed uranium mining and milling in Virginia outweigh expected benefits to the Basin residents in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisburg Town Council goes on public record in opposition to lifting the ban on uranium mining in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adopted this the 18th day April, 2011.



Karl T. Pernell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carolyn D. Patterson
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk CMC