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Transport of more nuclear waste raises concerns

Brockton should be worried about an increase in the number of trucks carrying low and intermediate level nuclear waste through the municipality, said Coun. Chris Peabody.

Peabody, who has attended a number of open houses sponsored by Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation, said there's potential for more nuclear waste to be brought to the Bruce site if refurbishment of the Pickering or Darlington sites goes ahead.

The Bruce nuclear power site has been an interim storage centre for low and intermediate level nuclear waste for nearly 30 years, and there are plans now to make the storage site a long-term one by burying the waste in rock vaults 660 metres underground.

About 20 truckloads a day go through the community now, and Peabody is worried about an increase in that number if refurbishing at the Toronto-area reactors goes ahead.

"I would be concerned about the truck traffic and accidents and overall risk factors of more trucks coming through the community with no economic benefit to Brockton," he said.

Peabody got council's support for a motion asking the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to evaluate truck traffic as a factor it looks at in an **environmental assessment**. The assessment would include the potential for accidents and wear and tear on roads.

The search is on for long-term storage of high level nuclear waste, which means trucks carrying highly radioactive material through Ontario.

"I think this council needs to start voicing their concerns about shipments of nuclear waste through our community," Peabody said.