

# **Columbus Township Resolution**

**4-2-17**

## **Resolution Opposing the Construction of a Nuclear Waste Repository in the Great Lakes Basin**

**WHEREAS** Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to construct a deep geologic repository (DGR) which is an underground long-term burial facility for all of Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, some of which is highly radioactive and will remain toxic for over 100,000 years. This site is approximately one kilometre inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 metres below the lake level;

**WHEREAS** water is the nation's and Canada's most important natural resource and should be protected and managed prudently;

**WHEREAS** the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing twenty percent of the world's and ninety-five percent of the United States' fresh water vital to human and environmental health;

**WHEREAS** the Great Lakes are vital to the economic and agricultural well-being of both Canada and the United States of America;

**WHEREAS** Lake Huron and the connecting waters, including Lake St. Clair, are a source of drinking water for millions of people downstream in the United States of America, Canada, and First Nations;

**WHEREAS** concern has been expressed over the proposed OPG DGR by individuals, citizen and environmental groups, and municipalities and counties in both Canada and the United States;

**WHEREAS** under the *2012 Protocol Amending the Agreement Between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality*, the governments of the United States and Canada acknowledge the importance of anticipating, preventing and responding to threats to the waters of the Great Lakes;

**WHEREAS** the Governments of Canada and of the United States share a responsibility and an obligation to protect the Great Lakes from contamination from various sources of pollution, including the potential leakage of radioactivity from an underground nuclear waste repository;

**WHEREAS** placing a permanent nuclear waste burial 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 suggested economic benefit that might be derived from burying radioactive nuclear waste at this site. The ecology of the Great Lakes, valuable beyond measure to the health and economic well-being of the entire region, should not be placed at risk by storing radioactive nuclear waste underground so close to the shoreline;

**WHEREAS** Michigan has significant experience with the the concerns for siting a radioactive waste disposal facility as the state went through an exhaustive siting process over twenty years ago and concluded there was no viable location for constructing such a facility.

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Senate has expressed serious concerns for the failure of the siting process in Ontario for the proposed OPG DGR to fully account for all potential impacts of the proposed facility by passing a legislative package urging intervention by the Great Lakes Commission, the International Joint Commission and a special legislatively created advisory Board.

**WHEREAS**, On December 28, 2016, OPG submitted a report outlining generic information about two alternative geologic regions, but failed to provide any information on specific sites or consider any areas located outside of the Great Lakes basin; and

**WHEREAS**, As of September 12, 2016, entities representing over 23 million citizens have passed 187 resolutions in the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio and in the province of Ontario opposing the proposed nuclear waste repository, with the vast majority of the resolutions opposing any permanent underground nuclear waste repository anywhere in the Great Lakes basin; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Columbus Township Board/Council, Michigan, in order to protect the Great Lakes and its 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 in Canada, the United States, or any First Nation property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Columbus Township, Michigan, urges the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to reject and seek alternatives to Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury radioactive nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin. In addition, pursuant to SCR 16 of 2014 and SR 151 of 2014, the Columbus Township Board/Council also urges President Trump to take all necessary steps to engage the International Joint Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be provided to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Canadian Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna, the Great Lakes Commission, the International Joint Commission, Governors and legislative leaders of the eight Great Lakes states, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, U.S. Representative Paul Mitchell, Senator Phil Pavlov, and Michigan State Representative Pamela Hornberger, as well as the Joint Review Panel Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste (case reference #17520) Co-Manager Ms. Debra Myles.