



June 15, 2015

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq,
Minister of the Environment
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

Subject: Proposed Nuclear Waste Repository

Please be advised that Elgin County Council at its June 9, 2015 meeting adopted the attached resolution opposing the construction of a Nuclear Waste Repository in the Great Lakes Basin.

The Great Lakes are a source of drinking water for millions of people including residents of Elgin County. The possibility that radioactive nuclear waste could leak and contaminate this water supply is of great concern.

Elgin County strongly 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.

Yours truly,

Katherine Thompson,
Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Enclosure

cc The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Robert Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable Glen R. Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
Joe Preston, M.P. Elgin-Middlesex-London
Jeff Yurek, M.P.P Elgin-Middlesex-London
Beverly Fernandez, Spokesperson, Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

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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, at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station site in Kincardine Ontario Canada, and bury and abandon in the DGR all of Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste, some of which remains highly radioactive and toxic for over 100,000 years. The proposed site is approximately one kilometre inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 metres below the lake level;

WHEREAS Ontario Power Generation did not consider or evaluate any other actual sites for the location of the proposed DGR;

WHEREAS fresh water is Canada's most important resource and should be protected and managed prudently;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing twenty one percent of the world's, and ninety five percent of North America's fresh water, relied upon by millions for drinking water, tourism, recreation, vital to human and environmental health and economic and agricultural well-being of both Canada and the United States of America and supporting a regional economy of US\$4.7 trillion (2011);

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

WHEREAS any contamination resulting from a leaking nuclear waste repository located on Lake Huron could affect the source of drinking water for Elgin County, Ontario;

WHEREAS individuals, citizen and environmental groups and municipalities and counties in both Canada and the United States have expressed concern and opposition to the proposed nuclear waste repository;

WHEREAS as of May 19, 2015, one hundred fifty five (155) resolutions have been passed by communities in the States of Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Indiana and in the Province of Ontario representing 21 million citizens 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;

WHEREAS under the *2012 Protocol Amending the Agreement Between Canada and the United States of America on Great Lakes Water Quality*, the governments of Canada and the United States acknowledge the importance of anticipating, preventing and responding to threats to the waters of the Great Lakes and share a responsibility and an obligation to protect the Great Lakes from contamination from various sources of pollution, including the leakage of nuclear waste from an underground nuclear waste repository;

WHEREAS in April 2015 resolutions HR 194 and SR 134 were introduced respectively in the US House of Representatives and US Senate expressing the sense that (1) the Canadian Government should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin; (2) the President and the Secretary of State should take appropriate action to work with the Canadian Government to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin; and (3) the President and the Secretary of State should work together with their Canadian Government counterparts on a safe and responsible solution for the long-term storage of nuclear waste;

WHEREAS, In the mid 1980's, the US Department of Energy was considering potential sites for a US nuclear waste repository, including some sites location in the Great Lakes Basin and as a result of significant Canadian opposition,

Joe Clark, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, intervened and the US government honored Canada's request to exclude any sites within 40 kilometers of the Canadian border; and

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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Elgin County Council that:

1. In order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, Elgin County urges that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station site nor any other underground nuclear waste repository be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, the United States, or any First Nation property.
2. Elgin County urges the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to reject (and seek alternatives to) Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury and abandon radioactive nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, Leona Aglukkaq, Canada's Minister of the Environment, Robert Nicholson, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London, and Joe Preston, MP Elgin-Middlesex-London.