

RESOLUTION NO. 15-66

**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; and
- WHEREAS,** Ontario Power Generation did not consider or evaluate any other actual sites for the location of the proposed DGR; and
- WHEREAS,** fresh water is the nation's and Canada's most important resource and should be protected and managed prudently; and
- 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); and
- WHEREAS,** Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are hydrologically connected as one continuous water body and any contamination resulting from a leaking nuclear waste repository located on Lake Huron could affect Lake Michigan's waters, the source of drinking water for Lake County, Indiana; and
- WHEREAS,** Lake Huron and connecting waters including Lake St. Clair, are a source of drinking water for millions of people downstream in Canada, the United States of America and First Nations; and
- 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; and
- WHEREAS,** as of February 10, 2015, one hundred forty-two (142) resolutions have been passed by communities in the States of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Indiana and in the Province of Ontario representing 17.9 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; and

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

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 leakage of nuclear waste from an underground nuclear waste repository; and

WHEREAS, in September 2014 resolutions HR 716 and SR 565 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; and

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 Lake County Council that:

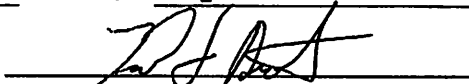
1. In order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, the Lake County Council of Lake County, Indiana urges that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station site nor any other underground nuclear waste repository be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, the United States, or any First Nation property.
2. The Lake County Council of Lake County, Indiana 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.

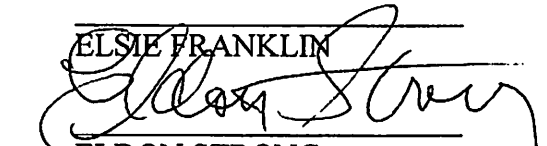
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Premier of Ontario, the Prime Minister of Canada, Canada's Federal Minister of the Environment, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Indiana congressional delegation, the governors or premiers and the legislative majority leaders, in Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Quebec, the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Commission, all Members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament and all Members of Canada's Parliament, and to the Joint Review Panel Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Case Reference Number 17520, c/o Panel Co-Manager, Ms. Debra Myles.

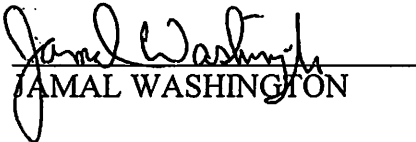
SO RESOLVED THIS 9th DAY OF April, 2015.


CHRISTINE CID


TED F. BILSKI, President


DANIEL E. DERNULC


ELSIE FRANKLIN


JAMAL WASHINGTON


ELDON STRONG


DAVID HAMM

Members of the Lake County Council