

Colfax Township Resolution # 2014-10
Opposing the Construction of a Nuclear Waste Repository in the Great Lakes Basin

At a regular meeting of the Colfax Township Board of Colfax Township, Huron County, Michigan, held at the Colfax Township Hall of said Township on the 12th day of August, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Present: Howard, Smith, Ritter, Gordon

Absent: Stroschein

The Following resolution was offered by Howard and seconded by Smith

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 (.62 miles) from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 metres (¼ mile) below the lake leve;

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 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 the 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 water 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 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. SB948, SCR 16, SCR 17, SR150 and SR 151 all have been passed unanimously by the Michigan Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Colfax Township Board, Huron County 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 Colfax Township Board, Huron County 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 and SR 151, the Township of Colfax also urges President Obama 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 Stephen Harper, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Canadian Federal Minister of the Environment, Leona Aglukkaq, 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 Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Representative Candice Miller, Michigan Senator Mike Green, and Michigan State Representative Terry Brown, 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.

ADOPTED: YEAS Howard, Gordon, Smith, Ritter.
NAYS
Absent: Stroschan

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Township Clerk for Colfax Township, Huron County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of August, 2014.


Mary Ritter, Colfax Township Clerk