

**11-R-15**

**A 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 and provides the vast majority of the fresh water in North America; 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 almost 7 million residents of 11 northeastern Illinois counties (Boone, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will); and

**WHEREAS**, Lake Huron and connecting waters including Lake St. Clair, are a source of drinking water for millions of people downstream in Canada and United States of America; 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 September 22, 2014, one hundred thirty-three (133) 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, which collectively represent 11 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**, the State of Michigan Senate has expressed serious concern over 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. SB 948, SCR 16, SCR 17, SR 150 and SR 151 all have been passed unanimously by the Michigan Senate; 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 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 have been introduced respectively in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. 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**, 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 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:**

**SECTION 1:** The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference as though fully restated.

**SECTION 2:** That in order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, the City of Evanston of Cook County, Illinois 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 and the United States property.

**SECTION 3:** That the City of Evanston urges the Canadian government to reject (and seek alternatives to) Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury and abandon radioactive nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

**SECTION 4:** In addition, the City of Evanston opposes the shipping of nuclear waste associated with this or any other nuclear waste facility on the Great Lakes.


**SECTION 5:** That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada's Federal Minister of the Environment Leona Aglukkaq, President of the United States, The Majority Leader of U.S. Senate, the Speaker of U.S. House of Representatives, the members of U.S. Congress representing Cook County, the Governor of the State of Illinois and any other appropriate elected officials.

**SECTION 6:** That this Resolution 11-R-15 shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.



Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, Mayor

Attest:



Rodney Greene, City Clerk

Adopted: March 9, 2015