



DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

Statement of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
May 12, 2015

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has received the Environmental Assessment Report of the Joint Review Panel concerning the proposed Deep Geologic Repository for low and intermediate level waste in Kincardine, Ontario. The Report is well over 400 pages long, so we have not had an opportunity to review it in any detail. However, the fundamental conclusion that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, does raise serious concerns on our part.

There has never been a question about the thoroughness or quality of the technical work done to evaluate the proposal. The big issue is whether it makes sense to put it so close to one of the largest bodies of surface fresh water in the world that is the source of drinking water to over 40 million Canadians and Americans without considering other possible locations. With the amount of radioactive waste currently stored and being generated around the lakes, this would set a dangerous precedent.

We believe the Joint Review Panel has more work to do, especially with regard to considering other possible locations for the DGR. Recognizing that an accident would cause irreparable if not life changing damage to fresh water that serves 40 million people, caution and patience in this decision are imperative.