

United States Senate

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204

October 21, 2013

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

We are writing to express serious concerns about a proposal to store low and intermediate level nuclear waste in an underground facility at the Bruce nuclear power site near Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario.

As you may know, the Bruce nuclear power site, which is located only one mile from the coast of Lake Huron, is the world's largest nuclear power site. Ontario Power Generation (OPG), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ontario Government, has proposed to prepare, construct and operate a nuclear waste disposal facility on the Bruce site. If the project is approved, it would store over 200,000 cubic feet of waste generated by the eight nuclear reactors located at the complex as well as ten other nuclear reactors owned by OPG. It is our understanding that the environmental assessment for this project is currently under final review by Canadian Environmental and Assessment Agency (CEAA). If approved, this project could begin construction in 2014 with a likely completion date within five to seven years.

The placement of this nuclear waste storage facility is of great concern given its location near Lake Huron and the importance of the Great Lakes to tens of millions of U.S. and Canadian citizens for drinking water, fisheries, tourism, recreation, and other industrial and economic uses. Special consideration must be given to the potential environmental impacts of such a large radioactive waste site on the shores of our region's most important natural resource.

We believe that the decision to store such large quantities of nuclear waste along the shores of an internationally shared resource must be thoroughly reviewed and considered by both countries. We strongly urge you to engage the International Joint Commission on this important topic and also encourage the Canadian government to reconsider placing a nuclear waste dump near the shores of Lake Huron.

Sincerely,


U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow


U.S. Senator Carl Levin