



# Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

Presentation to  
The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

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**Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump Inc.**

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## Why Are We Here?

**Ontario Power Generation is planning to bury radioactive nuclear waste beside Lake Huron**

The Great Lakes supply drinking water to 40 million people in Canada and the U.S.

**Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its 13 million citizens were not informed or consulted about OPG's plan until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour**



## About Us

**Non-profit organization** of concerned citizens, all volunteers

**Purpose:** Inform Canadians and Americans about OPG's plans for a DGR immediately beside Lake Huron, and provide citizens an opportunity to take an informed stand to oppose it

**Goal:** Stop the DGR from being built on the shores of Lake Huron



## Our Strategy

- Be an independent voice of reason
- Escalate public awareness through compelling communications
- Pursue strategic outreach with organizations, individuals and politicians aimed at building broad based opposition to the DGR
- Target key North American cities in the Great Lakes Basin
- Create political interest and pressure by building overwhelming public support for the on-line petition



# Our Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Website
  - Facebook and Twitter
  - Petition with almost 11,000 signatures
  - Radio and print media coverage
  - Digital Billboard in Toronto
- All achieved with fewer than 10 individuals with a limited budget of about \$10,000 in less than 6 months. We are not a multi-billion dollar corporation with thousands of employees, as is OPG
- **Imagine how much opposition would surface if sufficient time and resources were available**



# Citizens Sound the Alarm



- Digital billboard on the Gardiner Expressway in Toronto, Canada's largest city



## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **Scientists and geologists cannot guarantee that this nuclear waste dump will not leak**

William Fyfe, professor and international consultant on nuclear waste:  
*"You do not put nuclear waste near things like the Great Lakes or the great rivers in case there's a leakage that you haven't expected"*

- **Some intermediate level nuclear waste remains radioactive and lethal for over 100,000 years and is almost as toxic and radioactive as nuclear spent fuel**



## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **OPG did not consider any alternative sites:**
  - OPG's Environmental Impact Statement comment on achievability and acceptability of an alternative site option: "*Unknown*"
  - OPG's plan for a DGR within approximately 400 metres of Lake Huron without investigating potential other sites not situated in populous Southern Ontario and in close proximity to the freshwater supply of 40 million people is shocking - and evidences a clear lack of risk mitigation, scientific due diligence and application of precautionary principles





## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **Computer models cannot predict what will happen in 100,000 years**

Allison McFarlane, MIT trained geologist and head of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission states:

*“one cannot make assumptions about the processes or features that one is not aware of    models cannot be validated or verified”*

*“it is almost impossible to decipher the detailed history of a rock, let alone predict reactions into the geologic future. Geology has not advanced far enough yet to expect that it can do this    ”*

- **DGR in limestone unproven and unprecedented**



## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **Nuclear waste dumps in other countries are leaking despite steadfast assurances that this would not happen**
  - Maxey Flats, Kentucky US has a low level nuclear waste dump
  - Citizens told possibility of off-site migration of the waste was “essentially nonexistent”
  - Citizens told it would take 24,000 years for the plutonium to travel one-half of an inch
  - **Less than 10 years later it was found 2 miles off-site**



## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **ASSE II** – DGR to permanently house low and intermediate level nuclear waste in a salt mine, a completely dry, non-corrosive environment
- Under a strict approval process the government and scientists provided assurances that the DGR would not leak
- Ten years later – 1,200 litres of water per day leaking into DGR
- Scientists DEAD WRONG
- UNMITIGATED DISASTER
- Great Concern – What if it had been approved in Kincardine?



## Reasons To Be Alarmed

- OPG Environmental Impact Statement documents state:

*"Most of the waste packages are not designed to be long-lived. As they corrode or are damaged by rock fall, the wastes are exposed and the radioactivity can be released." And further states "People living on or near the site could be exposed to the contaminants "*

- OPG states – the DGR “is not likely to result in any significant residual adverse effects to human health or the environment, including Lake Huron and the Great Lakes”
- Is “not likely” good enough for the 13 million citizens that you as Mayors represent?



# Reasons To Be Alarmed

- **Process for a Second DGR Currently Underway**
- Approval of the Kincardine DGR will set precedents with respect to:
  - Geology
  - Toxicity of the waste
  - Proximity of the waste permitted to be buried beside Lake Huron and the Great Lakes
- Approval of OPG's DGR would pave the way for the high level nuclear waste DGR to be located in the Great Lakes Basin



# OPG Alleges Opposition is “Localized”

## **OPG Asserts:**

- Public sentiment about the DGR has generally been positive
- Many stakeholders continue to provide encouraging comments
- Opposition to the DGR is being voiced by “small pockets of local individuals, NGOs and national NGOs.”



# North Americans Are Opposed

## **Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump Petition:**

- Almost 11,000 citizens from **all Canadian Provinces and Territories, 49 US States** and 43 countries of the world have signed
- **Signatories:** Distinguished Canadians, (Order of Canada), doctors (over 235), scientists, professors, lawyers, teachers, former Chief Crown Prosecutor (Ont) & Deputy Minister of the Environment (Ont), former member of the Seaborn Panel, US and Cdn politicians, First Nations Chiefs and Peoples, church leaders, members of Cdn armed forces, and other concerned citizens
- **All in agreement** that burying nuclear waste within 400 metres of the drinking water supply of 40 million people in 2 countries defies common sense and that no DGR should be permitted to be built in the Great Lakes Basin



# DGR Support = A Small Local Pocket

## Our Assessment:

- Citizens opposed to the DGR are not “small or isolated pockets” of local individuals as OPG alleges; they are a broad cross section of Canadian and American society
- Citizens are uniformly, eloquently, passionately and thoughtfully agreeing that burying the most toxic and lethal substance that humans have ever created within 400 metres of the drinking water supply of 40 million people in two countries defies common sense and should not be permitted to happen
- **Support *for* the DGR is itself largely local and is itself a small pocket**





# Which Communities Get What

- **5 GLSLCI member communities**

(Kincardine, Huron Kinloss, Saugeen Shores, Arran Elderslie, Brockton)

- Hosting Agreement beneficiaries
- \$10.5 M received to date, \$36 M over 30 years, conditional on showing continued support for the DGR
  
- Combined pop. 46,867 represents 0.4% of GLSLCI

- **7 GLSLCI member communities**

- Above (excluding Kincardine) plus Central Huron and Nipigon
- Vying to host DGR2 and hoping for future hosting agreement payments

- **94 GLSLCI member communities**

- Receive no payments under any Hosting for either DGR1 or DGR2
- Combined pop. 12.9 M representing 99.6% of GLSLCI
  
- Not informed or consulted
  
- Drinking water at risk
  
- No benefits
  
- **Risk and Uncertainty**



# Is GLSLCI Not A Key Stakeholder?

## **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI):**

- Advancing the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River
- 101 members representing 13 million citizens
- **Why** are the GLSLCI Mayors with 13 million constituents only now being informed about OPG's plan?
- **How** will the GLSLCI Mayors and their constituents voice their concerns when the public comment period closes in 7 days?



## GLSLCI - An Opportunity To Lead?

- The protection of our precious natural resource, the Great Lakes is a matter of national and international importance, and one that demands the involvement of all Canadians and Americans
- The protection of the waters of the Great Lakes is a public trust that must be upheld for the benefit of 40 million people in two countries
- Precautionary principles must be applied to ensure OPG's plan does not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment
- Any risk of buried nuclear waste leaking into our shared Great Lakes is too great a risk to take, and should never be taken
- **Another solution must be found**



## GLSLCI - Time is of the Essence

### **Honourable Mayors, you have been given limited time to:**

- Demonstrate responsible leadership and responsible stewardship
- Lead the way, with vision, wisdom and concern, on one of the most important issues of our time, and be remembered for doing so
- Speak for the protection of our shared precious natural resource, the Great Lakes
- Advocate for the protection of the interests and lives of 40 million people and their descendents who depend and will depend upon the sustenance of the water of our Great Lakes



## Next Steps?

- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Mayors now have a monumental task ahead and will need to address many serious questions in an exceedingly compressed timeframe
- Should the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative inform and engage all Mayors in the group?
- Should a presentation to the full Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative membership be made in June 2013?
- Should you alert local media in GLSLCI communities so that your constituents can be informed?
- Should you engage with other levels of government (Provincial, State, Federal)?



# Parting Thought

**Would you bury poison beside your well?**

**[www.StopTheGreatLakesNuclearDump.com](http://www.StopTheGreatLakesNuclearDump.com)**