



Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

For Immediate Release:
February 11, 2015

Contact: Beverly Fernandez
info@stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com

Lake County, Illinois Joins Call to Stop Proposed Nuclear Waste Dump beside the Great Lakes

TORONTO — Lake County, Illinois representing over 700,000 citizens, and the third largest county in Illinois joins Cook and DuPage Counties, the cities of Chicago and Waukegan and other communities in the U.S. and Canada totaling 17.9 million people, calling for a halt to Ontario Power Generation's plan to build an **underground nuclear waste dump** (a Deep Geological Repository or DGR) **less than 1 mile from the shore of Lake Huron**. Yesterday the Lake County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution 15-0095 opposing the construction of OPG's proposed nuclear waste repository or any nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin (see attached).

Noting that fresh water is the nation's most important resource and should be protected and managed prudently, the Lake County resolution notes that Ontario Power Generation did not consider or evaluate any other actual sites for the location of the proposed DGR. Resolution 15-0095 echoes concerns by Cook County that any contamination resulting from a leaking nuclear waste repository located on Lake Huron could have a potential impact on Lake Michigan's waters, the source of drinking water for almost 7 million residents of northeastern Illinois Counties.

"All elected officials in the Great Lakes watershed need to stand up and speak out for the protection of our most important resource" said Steven Mandel, Lake County Board member and sponsor of the resolution. "This resolution is an important step in standing with local governments throughout the Great Lakes region to oppose the storage of nuclear waste near the largest source of drinking water in North America," said Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor. "As one of two Illinois counties that border Lake Michigan, we stand ready to do whatever it takes to support a permanent storage facility for nuclear waste that is safe, permanent and far away from the Great Lakes region."

With a Canadian federal Joint Review Panel report due in May 2015 to be followed by a Canadian federal government decision sometime in 2015, the growing opposition in Illinois is timely and welcomed by Beverly Fernandez, Spokesperson for Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump. *"We commend County Board member Steven Mandel and the Lake County Board for recognizing the importance of this issue and for calling upon all elected officials in Great Lakes watershed to stand up for the protection of this irreplaceable fresh water resource"* said Fernandez, whose Canadian non-profit organization launched a campaign to raise awareness and encourage communities to take action by passing resolutions opposing OPG's plan. Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump also launched a petition that is approaching 73,000 signatures opposing OPG's proposal. *"It absolutely defies common sense to bury the most toxic waste humans have ever produced, that remains lethal and dangerous for 100,000 years, approximately 1 km from the drinking water of 40 million Americans and Canadians"* Fernandez said.

Cont'd

Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump is a non-profit organization endorsed by thousands of people who believe that the protection of the Great Lakes from buried radioactive nuclear waste is responsible stewardship, and is of national and international importance. In order to protect this precious natural resource – the Great Lakes – our group believes that radioactive nuclear waste should not be buried anywhere in the Great Lakes Basin.

To learn more please visit: www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com

To sign the online petition: www.gopetition.com/petitions/stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.html

For more information, please contact:

Steven Mandel, Lake County Board Member

Office Phone: 847.456.6933

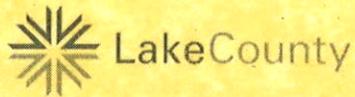
Email: SMandel@lakecountyil.gov

Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump Spokesperson, Beverly Fernandez

info@stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com

Attachment

###



**RESOLUTION OPPOSITNG 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 kilometer inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 meters 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 United States and Canada's most important resource and should be protected and managed prudently; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing twenty one percent of the worlds, and ninety five percent of North America's fresh water, vital to human and environmental health and economic and agricultural well-being of both Canada and the United States of 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, the United States of America and First Nations (Aboriginal people in Canada); 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, Lake County, Illinois of the United States of America has approximately 703,000 residents whom a large majority are sustained by the fresh water of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, as of October 9, 2014, 136 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 representing 16 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 Michigan Senate has expressed serious concern 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. 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 of 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

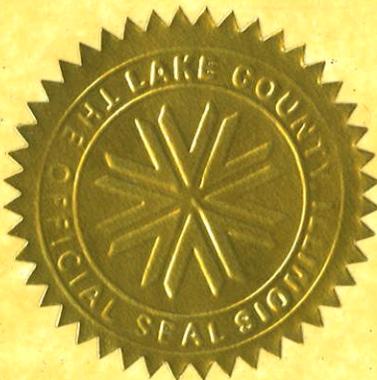
WHEREAS, in September 2014 resolutions HR 716 and SR 565 have been introduced respectively in the US House of Representatives and US Senate expressing the sense that (1) the Canadian Government should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin; (2) the President 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

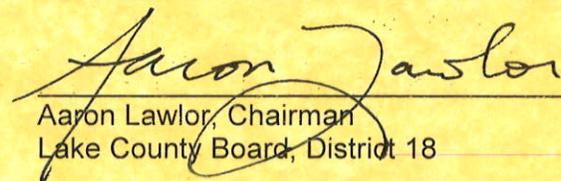
WHEREAS placing a permanent nuclear waste burial facility so close to the Great Lakes is ill-advised. The potential damage to the Great Lakes from any leak or breach of radioactivity far outweighs any suggested economic benefit that might be derived from burying radioactive nuclear waste at this site. 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Lake County Board of Lake County, that:

1. In order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, the Lake County Board of Lake County 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, the United States, or any First Nation property.
2. The Lake County Board of Lake County urges the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to reject (and seek alternatives to) Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury and abandon radioactive nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.
3. 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 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of U.S. Congress representing Lake County, the Governor of the State of Illinois, the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, members of the Illinois House and Senate representing Lake County, all Members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament and all Members of Canada's Parliament, and to the Joint Review Panel Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Case Reference Number 17520, c/o Panel Co-Manager, Ms. Debra Myles.

DATED at Waukegan, Illinois, on February 10, 2015.




Aaron Lawlor, Chairman
Lake County Board, District 18