

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

RESOLUTION NO. R40-15

**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 to 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; and

WHEREAS, the proposed site of the DGR is approximately one kilometer inland from the shore of Lake Huron, and about 400 meters below lake level; and

WHEREAS, OPG did not consider or evaluate any other actual sites for the location of the proposed DGR; and

WHEREAS, fresh water is one of the United States and Canada’s most important resources, and should be protected and managed prudently; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing 21 percent of the world’s fresh water, and 95 percent of North America’s fresh water, and are vital to human and environmental health and the economic and agricultural well-being of both Canada and the United States of America;

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 seven 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, in which the City is located, has approximately 703,000 residents, the vast majority of whom receive fresh water from the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, over 135 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, collectively 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 State Senate has expressed serious concern for the failure of the siting process in Ontario for the proposed 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; 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 H.R. 716 and S.R. 565 have been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, respectively, expressing the sense that: (i) the Government of Canada should not allow a permanent nuclear waste repository to be built within the Great Lakes Basin; (ii) the President and Secretary of State of the United States should take appropriate action to work with the Government of Canada to prevent a permanent nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin; and (iii) the President and Secretary of State should work together with their Government of Canada 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, and 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 HIGHLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION ONE: RECITALS. The foregoing recitals are incorporated into, and made a part of, this Resolution as findings of the City Council.

SECTION TWO: PLEDGE OF OPPOSITION. In order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, the City Council of the City of Highland Park urges that neither the proposed DRG at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station site, nor any other underground nuclear waste repository, be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, in the United States, or on any First Nation property. The City Council of the City of Highland Park 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.

SECTION THREE: DELIVERY. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit an executed and sealed copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, all members of the U.S. Congress representing any portion of Lake County, the Governor of the State of Illinois, the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, all members of the Illinois House and Senate representing any portion of Lake County, 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.

SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution will be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval by a majority of the members of the City Council.

AYES: Mayor Rotering, Councilmen Stone, Kaufman, Frank, Blumberg, Knobel, Holleman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

PASSED: March 9, 2015

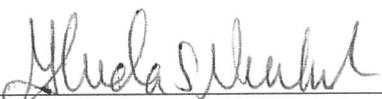
APPROVED: March 9, 2015

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Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ghida S. Neukirch, City Clerk