



## Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

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### City of Chicago, Illinois Joins Call to Stop Proposed Nuclear Waste Dump beside the Great Lakes

TORONTO — The City of Chicago, third most populous city in the United States, joins a growing number of communities, organizations and citizens in the United States and Canada calling for a halt to Ontario Power Generation's plan to build an **underground nuclear waste dump** (a Deep Geological Repository or DGR) **approximately 1km from the shore of Lake Huron**. On January 21, 2015 the Chicago City Council unanimously passed resolution SR2014-892 opposing OPG's proposed nuclear waste repository or any nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin (see attached).

The Chicago resolution notes that OPG did not consider or evaluate any other actual sites for the location of the proposed DGR, and further that resolutions previously introduced in the U.S. Congress have called for the President and the Secretary of State to take steps to prevent a nuclear waste repository from being built within the Great Lakes Basin.

"The Great Lakes hold 84 percent of North America's fresh water and Chicago's position as the paramount Great Lakes city makes OPG's proposed nuclear waste repository a threat to both public health and our environment," said Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "As shown by our City Council's unanimous approval of a resolution opposing the repository, as well as the many voices throughout the United States and Canada, passionate support to protect our Great Lakes spans across North America and cannot be ignored."

With a Canadian federal Joint Review Panel report due in May 2015 to be followed by a Canadian federal government decision sometime in 2015, actions taken by Chicago calling for a halt to OPG's plan were welcomed by Beverly Fernandez, Spokesperson for Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump. *"We applaud Mayor Emanuel and Chicago City Council for recognizing the importance of this issue and taking action to protect this irreplaceable fresh water resource"* said Fernandez, whose Canadian non-profit organization launched a campaign to raise awareness about OPG's plan and a petition that now has over 72,000 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.

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.

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To learn more please visit: [www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com](http://www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com)

To sign the online petition: [www.gopetition.com/petitions/stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.html)

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Attachment

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**SUBSTITUTE**  
**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), a corporation wholly owned by the Province of Ontario, is proposing to construct a deep geologic repository (DGR) and bury and abandon in the DGR all of Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste, some of which will remain highly radioactive and toxic for over 100,000 years. The proposed site is located at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, less than one mile from the eastern shore of Lake Huron; and

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

**WHEREAS**, The creation of a permanent nuclear waste storage facility so close to one of the Great Lakes is a matter of vital concern to the region's states and provinces. Millions of United States and Canadian citizens rely on the lakes as a source of drinking water, tourism, recreation, and as a key industrial asset; and

**WHEREAS**, A leak of radioactive waste would almost certainly have a cataclysmic effect on the delicate ecological balance of the world's largest group of interconnected freshwater bodies of water; and

**WHEREAS**, The Mayor and City Council of the City of Chicago have a deep obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Chicagoans by working diligently to preserve our precious natural resources; 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 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 the mid 1980s, the U.S. Department of Energy was considering potential sites for a nuclear waste repository, including locations in the Great Lakes Basin. As a result of significant Canadian opposition, Joe Clark, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, intervened, and the U.S. government honored Canada's request to rule out any sites within 40 kilometers of the Canadian border; and

**WHEREAS**, In September 2014, resolutions HR 716 and SR 565 were introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. 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; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, we, the Mayor and Members of the Chicago City Council, urge 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, in the United States, or in any First Nation property.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we urge 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Premier of Ontario, the Prime Minister of Canada, Canada's Federal Minister of the Environment, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, the governors or premiers and the legislative majority leaders, in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Quebec, the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Commission, 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.