

South Huron Council passed the following resolution at our July 20, 2015 Council meeting:

Motion: #352-2015
Moved: Deputy Mayor Frayne
Seconded: Councillor Vaughan

WHEREAS Ontario Power Generation is proposing to construct an underground long-term burial facility for all of Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, some of which is highly radioactive and will remain toxic for over 100,000 years. This site is approximately one kilometre inland from the shore of Lake Huron and about 400 metres below the lake level;

WHEREAS water is Canada's most important resource and should be protected and managed prudently;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing 21% of the worlds, and 95% of North America's, fresh water vital to human and environmental health;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are vital to the economic and agricultural well-being to both Canada and the United States of America;

WHEREAS Lake Huron and the 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;

WHEREAS concern has been expressed by individuals, citizen and environmental groups and municipalities and counties in both Canada and the United States;

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;

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;

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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that South Huron Council, in order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, urges that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station nor any other underground nuclear waste repository be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, the United States, or any First Nation property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that South Huron Council urges the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to reject (and seek alternatives to) Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury radioactive nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canada's Federal Minister of the Environment Leona Aglukkaq.

Disposition: Carried.

Sincerely,
Sue Johnson
Administrative Assistant – Corporate Services Department
Municipality of South Huron
s.johnson@southhuron.ca
519.235.0310 ext 224