

**City of Port Huron, Michigan**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

**RES #17-048**

*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 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; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are an irreplaceable natural resource, containing 20% of the world's and 95% of the United States' fresh water, which is vital to human and environmental health; and

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

WHEREAS, Lake Huron and the connecting waters, including Lake St. Clair, are a source of drinking water for millions of people downstream in the United States, Canada and First Nations; and

WHEREAS, concern has been expressed over the proposed OPG DGR by individuals, citizen and environmental groups, and municipalities and counties in both the United States and Canada; 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 the United States and Canada acknowledge the importance of anticipating, preventing and responding to threats to the waters of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the governments of the United States and Canada share a responsibility and an obligation to protect the Great Lakes from contamination from various sources of pollution, including the potential leakage of radioactivity from an underground nuclear waste repository; 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; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has significant experience with the concerns for siting a radioactive waste disposal facility as the state went through an exhaustive siting process over 20 years ago and concluded there was no viable location for constructing such a facility; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Senate has expressed serious concerns 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; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 2016, OPG submitted a report outlining generic information about two alternative geologic regions, but failed to provide any information on specific sites or consider any areas located outside of the Great Lakes basin; and

WHEREAS, as of September 12, 2016, entities representing over 23 million citizens have passed 187 resolutions in the states of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio and in the province of Ontario 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Port Huron City Council does hereby oppose the construction of a nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to appropriate agencies.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sherry L. Archibald, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Anita R. Ashford, Mayor Pro-Tem
<b>YES:</b>	Repp, Ashford, Archibald, Harris, Lamb, Ruiz, Worden

*I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Port Huron City Council at the regular meeting of Monday, April 24, 2017.*

<Original signed by>

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Susan M. Child, MMC*  
City Clerk