



Councillor(s) Memo to Council

Report To: Members of South Huron Council

Meeting Date: May 1, 2017

From: Councillor Ted Oke

Report: Councillor Memo 17.01

Subject: Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

Recommendations:

THAT the memo of Councillor Oke regarding the Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear dump be received;

AND THAT the Council of South Huron supports and directs the Mayor to sign the Open Letter to Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change opposing Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR).

Purpose:

Council Support and Authorization.

Background and Information:

On July 2015, the following motion was passed by South Huron Council:

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 world's, 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.

In correspondence submitted to Council via email on April 18, 2017 (see attached) Mr. Frank Fernandez was hoping that Council would pass a motion at the April 18, 2017 meeting that supported Mayor Cole's signature to be added to the joint sign on letter (see attached). The previous correspondence was listed as Communications item 12.8, Frank Fernandez, Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump – Open letter to Minister McKenna on the April 18, 2017 Council Agenda.

Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump Inc. is a non-profit organization of concerned citizens, concerned about Ontario Power Generation's proposal to build a Deep Geological Repository to bury radioactive nuclear waste on the shores of the Great Lakes. They believe that radioactive nuclear waste should not be buried underground anywhere in the Great Lakes Basin. They believe that the protection of our Great Lakes from buried radioactive nuclear waste is responsible stewardship, and is of national and international importance. The Great Lakes provide safe clean drinking water for 40 million people in two countries, as well as providing recreation, fishing, supporting agriculture, plant and aquatic life.

They believe that there is an almost complete lack of awareness among Canadians and Americans of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) plans to bury radioactive nuclear waste, approximately 1 km inland from Lake Huron at the surface and more than 400 metres below the deepest near-site point of Lake Huron. OPG's Nuclear Waste Dump proposal sets a precedent for the establishment of future nuclear dumps on the Great Lakes potentially impacting people on both sides of the border. The primary goal is public awareness.

To learn more visit:

www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com

To sign the online petition:

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.html>

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Councillor Ted Oke
Municipality of South Huron