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## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM41.21	ACTION			Ward:All
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### **Protecting the Great Lakes from a nuclear waste repository - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. Toronto City Council support the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's position and oppose the Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposal for a Deep Geological Repository for low and intermediate radioactive waste in Kincardine, Ontario.
2. In order to protect the Great Lakes and its tributaries, Toronto City Council urge that neither this proposed nuclear waste repository near Kincardine, Ontario, nor any other underground nuclear waste repository, be constructed in the Great Lakes Basin, in Canada, or in the United States.
3. Toronto City Council forward this resolution, for immediate attention and action, to: the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Chair, Mr. Keith Hobbs, Mayor of Thunder Bay, as well as Joint Review Panel Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Case Reference Number 17520, Panel Co-Manager, Ms. Debra Myles, all local Members of Provincial Parliament and all Members of Parliament.

#### **Summary**

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to dispose of low and intermediate level nuclear waste, from its Bruce, Pickering, and Darlington facilities in a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) 680 metres below the surface of the ground in limestone rock, in Kincardine Ontario. The DGR is to be located approximately one kilometre from the shore of Lake Huron, one of the Great Lakes. Some of this nuclear waste remains toxic and lethal for over 100,000 years.

The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River represent the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic wellbeing and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the region.

If the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Region was its own country, it would rank among the world's largest economies. It is estimated that the GDP of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence economy is \$4.4 trillion or 31 per cent of combined GDP in Canada and the US. [1]

The Great Lakes provide drinking water to over 40 million, are home to over 350 species of fish, and contain 84 per cent of North America's freshwater supply. [2]

The Great Lakes contribute an estimated \$180 billion to Canada-U.S. trade, support 45% of Canada's industrial capacity, sustain a \$100 million commercial fishing industry, and sustain a \$350 million recreational fishing industry. [3]

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI), a formal organization of over 100 cities from Canada and the United States representing over 16 million people, of which the City of Toronto is a founding member, opposes the DGR proposal by OPG in Kincardine citing numerous concerns, including:

- Proximity of the DGR to Lake Huron. When dealing with a resource as important and valuable as the fresh water of the Great Lakes, why take the risk of putting the site so close to the shore.
- Failure by OPG to consider any other locations for the facility. With the size of Ontario and the very stable geology throughout the province, it would seem wise to look at more potential sites to see if some are more appropriate than Kincardine. There are concerns that Kincardine is not the right location, as no other sites were considered.
- Outreach by OPG did not sufficiently factor in more extensive communication to the broader GLSLCI community.
- Locating the radioactive waste that close to the largest source of fresh water in the world and the drinking water supply for over 40 million people in Canada and the United States seems unwise regardless of OPG claims of the suitability of the geology and the engineering of the DGR. Whatever the geology might be in the location, it just seems to make much more sense to have the site as far away as possible from such a major source of fresh water.
- OPG's proposal will set a precedent for the long term management of low and intermediate level radioactive waste from nuclear power generating facilities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin.

A growing number of Canadian and U.S. citizens in the Great Lakes region are expressing serious concerns and opposition to OPG's plan. As of October 9, 2013, Great Lakes communities in Ontario, Michigan and Ohio representing approximately 4.8 million citizens have formally passed resolutions opposing the DGR. This includes the City of Mississauga, City of London, Town of Oakville, the Michigan State Senate, the City of Oregon, and many others.

It is vitally important to human health, the environment and to the Great Lakes economy that the Great Lakes be protected from the threats of potential radioactive contamination posed by OPG's plan to bury nuclear waste in a Deep Geologic Repository 1 kilometre from the shore of Lake Huron.

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[1] <http://www.greatlakessummit.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/GLSLR-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

[2] Ibid

[3] <http://www.ec.gc.ca/grandslacs-greatlakes/default.asp?lang=En&n=B4E65F6F-1>

(Submitted to City Council on November 13 and 14, 2013 as MM41.21)

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM41.21