



Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump

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104 Great Lakes Mayors and Elected Officials Unite Against OPG Nuclear Waste Burial Scheme

TORONTO - November 30, 2017. In a show of unprecedented united opposition 104 Great Lakes Mayors and elected officials have signed an open letter delivered to Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, calling on her to reject Ontario Power Generation's plan to bury nuclear waste on the shores of the Great Lakes. These 104 mayors and officials represent the millions of people in the cities and towns surrounding the Great Lakes, including those in Ontario, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania. This illustrates the growing opposition, both domestically and internationally, to this scheme.

Reminding the Minister of the critical importance of the Great Lakes to both Canada and the United States, the letter also characterizes OPG's failure to investigate any other actual sites for its proposed nuclear waste DGR as irresponsible. The letter sends a loud and clear message to Minister McKenna that Great Lakes communities are united and opposed to OPG's DGR.

"It is remarkable to see the over 100 Great Lakes community leaders putting their voices together to say that this DGR plan is unacceptable. They are speaking with courage and common sense for the present and future of their communities. Their message is clear. The communities don't want the risk of a nuclear waste DGR beside their fresh water. It's simply unacceptable" said Beverly Fernandez, spokesperson for Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump.

"This letter obviously refutes OPG's claim that its proposed DGR is not an area of concern among the general population. Adding to the 104 mayoral and official signatures on the letter, there are 230 resolutions passed by local, county and state governments, representing over 23 million people, all opposing a DGR anywhere in the Great Lakes Basin. I'd say that's a lot of concern." Beverly Fernandez further said.

"The plan to put a nuclear repository on the shores of Lake Huron by OPG is playing Russian Roulette with the safety and water quality of 40 million Canadians and Americans. The Trudeau government has a chance to show international environmental leadership by saying "no" to the OPG Repository. This and future generations will be eternally grateful." said Mayor Mike Bradley, City of Sarnia, Ontario.

"Clean, safe drinking water is a basic right and a necessity to all people," said Karen Weaver, Mayor of Flint, Michigan. The Flint water crisis was started by government decisions made to save money. Leaders must do what we can to protect public health. And those at the table making important decisions must learn from what happened in Flint and do everything in their power to prevent it from happening elsewhere."

“Nearly 50 million people in communities throughout Canada and the United States depend on water from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region for their health and wellbeing. Protecting the Great Lakes is fundamental to ensuring we maintain a strong, resilient and competitive economy that multiple different industries rely on. Mississauga Council has a proud record of standing up for the Great Lakes. We unanimously passed a resolution in support of safeguarding funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We won unanimous approval to designate the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin - as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This designation would lead to the largest biosphere on the planet. We did it to help protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin for future generations.” Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie

For more information, please contact:

Beverly Fernandez
Spokesperson, Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump Inc.
info@stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com

Mayor Mike Bradley
City of Sarnia, Ontario
mayor@sarnia.ca
(519) 332-0330 extension 3312

Mayor Dr. Karen Weaver
City of Flint, Michigan
mayor@cityofflint.com
(810) 766-7346

Mayor Bonnie Crombie
City of Mississauga, Ontario
mayor@mississauga.ca
(905) 896-5555

Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump is a non-profit organization; we believe radioactive nuclear waste should not be buried anywhere in the Great Lakes Basin and that protection of the Great Lakes from buried radioactive nuclear waste is responsible stewardship, and is of national and international importance.

To learn more please visit:
<http://www.stopthegreatlakesnucleardump.com>

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