



**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 5 – 2016M**

**RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

**WHEREAS**, the water resources of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin are precious public natural resources, shared by the United States and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada have, since 1909, worked to maintain and improve the water quality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River through the Boundary Waters Treaty and water quality agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, over 40 million people in both Canada and the United States depend on the fresh water from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence for drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, Canada and the United States both rely heavily on electricity generated at nuclear power plants in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, these power plants have generated significant amounts of low, intermediate, and high level radioactive waste during their years of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, radioactive waste is highly toxic and can take tens of thousands of years to decompose to safe levels; and

**WHEREAS**, a release of radioactive waste into the Great Lakes could have lasting and severely adverse environmental, health, and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and the people who depend on them for their livelihood; and

**WHEREAS**, the only operating deep geologic repository for the permanent burial of nuclear waste in North America, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located in Carlsbad, New Mexico, was shuttered in February 2014 (15 years into its operational phase) when a barrel containing radioactive waste exploded and nuclear waste containing plutonium blew through the WIPP ventilation system, traveling 2,150 feet to the surface contaminating 22 workers, and spreading small amounts of radioactive material into the environment; and



**WHEREAS**, Ontario Power Generation’s safety case presented WIPP as a deep geologic repository with a similar design and depth and with a sterling record of safety and as an example of the use of deep rock vaults for the safe disposal of low and intermediate level nuclear waste; and

**WHEREAS**, Ontario Power Generation proposed over ten years ago to build a permanent deep geological repository (DGR) for low and intermediate radioactive waste less than one mile from Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative engaged in extensive dialogue over the merits and concerns about the DGR in 2013 and a delegation from the Board of Directors toured the site, as well; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 18, 2016, after considering the Joint Review Panel Environmental Assessment Report, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change requested that Ontario Power Generation provide to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency by April 18, 2016 a schedule for providing additional information on three aspects of the environmental assessment: alternate locations for the project, cumulative environmental effects of the project, and an updated list of mitigation commitments for each identified adverse effect under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) calls on Ontario Power Generation to address the three aspects of the environmental assessment addressed by Minister McKenna’s decision in a thorough and comprehensive manner; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on Ontario Power Generation to give great weight to the proximity of a potential DGR to any of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, or their tributaries in their deliberations, recognizing the value of staying as far away as possible from these water sources and the reduced risk of locating a deep geologic repository outside of the Great Lakes Basin; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative encourages Ontario Power Generation to factor in the risks associated with transportation of existing and future stored, operational and decommissioning radioactive waste to any potential DGR location; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on the governments of Canada and the United States to designate radionuclides as a chemical of mutual concern under Annex 3 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and take the steps contemplated under the Agreement once designated; and



**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Cities Initiative calls on Canada and the United States to cooperate in the process of evaluating the social acceptability of any proposed DGR location.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016

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Mitch Twolan, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of Huron-Kinloss