

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 029 02-26-2014

United Tribes of Michigan Opposition to Nuclear Waste Facility Near Lake Huron Shore

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Tribes and First Nations' citizens have a strong spiritual and cultural connection to the Waters, the protection and preservation of which are fundamental to the exercise of treaty rights and to the perpetuation of our sense of place, our sense of being, and our way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes contain approximately twenty percent of all the surface fresh water on Earth. Millions of citizens in the region rely on the lakes for their drinking water, for recreation, for tourism, for industry and for the quality of life that they enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is considering the creation of an underground nuclear waste storage facility in the limestone bedrock of the eastern shore of Lake Huron at the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant site; and

WHEREAS, the scientific studies on which this proposal are based are mixed at best and in most cases unsupportive of using a site so closely situated to such vital major surface and groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS, a leak or long-term seepage of radioactivity from such a site, or caused by an accident involving the transport of waste to the site, could be difficult to clean up and would be catastrophic for all those who rely on the Great Lakes, and Lake Huron in particular; and

WHEREAS, the tens of thousands of years required for maintaining and securing such a storage facility make the chances of accidents or breakdowns in security during the necessary life time of the facility too probable in the long run to dismiss in the short term; and

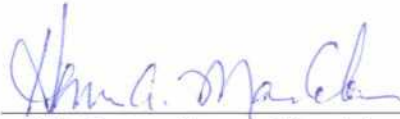
WHEREAS, efforts within Canada and from within the entire Great Lakes basin are being made to block the construction and prohibit the storage of intermediate and high level radioactive waste at this or any other site located near the Great Lakes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the United Tribes of Michigan is opposed to the permitting , construction, and operation of a nuclear waste storage facility at the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant site in Ontario, or any other site situated in the drainage basin for the Great Lakes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United Tribes of Michigan joins in the discussion and efforts to inform the public about the long term negative cost benefit ratio for such a facility; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to appropriate officials at the State of Michigan, Province of Ontario, and to the United States and Canadian federal governments.

Adopted by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on February 26, 2014, in Lansing MI.



Chairman Homer Mandoka
UTM President



Chairman Fred Kiogima
UTM Secretary