



City of Chicago



R2014-892

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	12/10/2014
Sponsor(s):	Emanuel (Mayor)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	President Barack Obama, Secretary of State, and U.S. Congress urged to refer proposed Ontario Power Generation nuclear waste burial and storage facility near Lake Huron to International Joint Commission
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Health and Environmental Protection



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

December 10, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith a resolution regarding a proposed Ontario Power Generation waste burial and storage facility near Lake Huron.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor



James M. [illegible]

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Ontario Power Generation, a corporation wholly owned by the government of Ontario, has proposed the construction of a long-term burial and storage facility for low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, a site less than one mile away from the eastern shore of Lake Huron; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a permanent nuclear waste storage facility so close to one of the Great Lakes is a matter of vital concern to the region's states and provinces. Millions of United States and Canadian citizens rely on the lakes as a source of drinking water, tourism, recreation, and as a key industrial asset; and

WHEREAS, A leak of radioactive waste would almost certainly have a cataclysmic effect on the delicate ecological balance of the world's largest group of interconnected freshwater bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, In 1909, the United States and Canada entered into the Boundary Waters Treaty, which provides a framework to resolve disputes over lakes and rivers that border both countries; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Boundary Waters Treaty, the United States and Canada formed the International Joint Commission to promote the sustainability of the Great Lakes region. The Commission, which comprises three members from each country, has historically taken positions on major topics concerning the Great Lakes, including pollution prevention and the exportation of resources; and

WHEREAS, A separate advisory body, the Great Lakes Commission, an interstate agency comprising principal members Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and associate members Ontario and Quebec, takes as its mission the promotion of the prudent and orderly development and use of the Great Lakes Basin; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and City Council of the City of Chicago have a deep obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Chicagoans by working diligently to preserve our precious natural resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this tenth day of December, 2014, do hereby urge the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the Congress of the United States to invoke their powers under the Boundary Waters Treaty to refer the matter of Ontario Power Generation's proposed nuclear waste storage facility to the International Joint Commission for close and critical consideration of its potential environmental impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We urge the Great Lakes Commission also to study and take a formal position on the proposed facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Illinois congressional delegation, the governors or premiers and the legislative majority leaders, in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Quebec, and the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Commission.