



Kahnawà:ke Ratitsénhaiens

Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke

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Tsi Nahóten Karihwanákere No'nenk News Release

MCK supports Saugeen Ojibway Nation fight against planned nuclear waste depository

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 13, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2015) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to advise the community that a letter has been sent to the Saugeen Ojibway Nation in support of their fight against the planned nuclear waste depository site at the nearby Bruce Power facility.

The proposed 'Deep Geologic Repository' to store some 200,000 cubic meters of nuclear waste 700 meters underground is located adjacent to Lake Huron. Saugeen Chief Vernon Roote has made clear his community's concerns regarding this ill-advised plan.

"We've been keeping close watch on this situation since the failed plan to ship the nuclear waste through the Seaway was announced a few years ago," said MCK Environment Portfolio Chief Clinton Phillips. "While the Bruce Power plant is hundreds of kilometers from Kahnawà:ke, any potential nuclear contamination problem could nonetheless affect not only us but the 40 million-plus people who use the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence River for drinking water.

"On this basis, we have an obligation to remain vigilant and to support our brothers and sisters at Saugeen," he concluded. "There needs to be a much better and safer plan for the disposal or storage of this dangerous material."

See letter attached below.

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For further information on this release:
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STRENGTH
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14, Onerahtohkó:wa/May 2015

Chief Vernon Roote
Saugeen Ojibway Nation
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Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton/Greetings,

We are writing this letter of support for you and your community in regard to your fight to prevent the creation of a repository for nuclear waste on the Bruce Power site on the banks of Lake Huron.

As you may be aware, on February 9, 2011 the three Mohawk communities located on the St. Lawrence River issued a joint position against the then-proposed shipment of nuclear waste from the Bruce Power site using the Great lakes and St. Lawrence River Seaway. We felt that we had an obligation not only to our people but to those who share these great waters that provide drinking water for approximately 40 million people. We pledged to work together to ensure the safety of Canadian, American and Indigenous people in this matter.

It is with this in mind that the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke pledges its support for your efforts against the new proposal of a 'Deep Geologic Repository' to store some 200,000 cubic metres of nuclear waste 700 metres below the Bruce Power site. We share your grave concerns with this plan, as the proximity to Lake Huron is alarming and the potential for possible contamination to the lake remains, regardless of any measures that may be put in place to prevent leakage.

We fear that this plan will create an out of sight, out of mind mentality that could pay horrible dividends at some point in the future due to the great depths involved. We have stated that there has to be a better plan to dispose of nuclear waste; however, this plan brings us no assurance or comfort that it will ensure safe disposition or storage.

We share the Saugeen First Nation's concerns and stand united in brotherhood. Please feel free to contact us should the need arise.

In Peace and Friendship,

**ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS
MOHAWK COUNCIL OF KAHNAWÀ:KE**



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Md&Cp/JD/05142015/SaugeenOjibwayNation

CC: Chief and Council
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