



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
2017 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY— REGINA, SK FINAL RESOLUTIONS

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 25, 26, & 27, 2017, REGINA, SK
Resolution no. 48/2017

TITLE: Opposition to Nuclear Waste Disposal and Abandonment
SUBJECT: Nuclear Waste, Environment
MOVED BY: Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, ON
SECONDED BY: Chief Elaine Johnston, Serpent River First Nation, ON
DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states**
- i. Article 29 (2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.**
- B. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and Natural Resources Canada have failed their constitutional duty to consult and accommodate the Anishinabek Nation and other First Nations regarding storage and operations at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Near Surface Disposal Facility and Chalk River Laboratories.**

- C. The Anishinabek Nation and Chiefs of Ontario released the following resolutions to demonstrate the unified opposition to nuclear waste activities: *AN 2010/30: Environmental Protection Against Nuclear Waste; AN 2015- 14: Continued Opposition to Nuclear Waste Storage within the Anishinabek Nation; AN 2016-16: Re-statement of the Opposition to Nuclear Waste Storage within the Anishinabek Nation Territory; AN 2017-05: Collaboration on the Opposition of Transportation and Abandonment of Radioactive Waste; and COO 59/16: Nuclear Power Generation and Nuclear Waste Repository.***
- D. The Anishinabek Nation and Iroquois Caucus made a Radioactive Waste Joint Declaration that outlines their united and collective position based on shared concerns about the transportation, storage, and abandonment of radioactive waste within our territories. Specifically, this Declaration noted that “We have our own territories and exercise our jurisdiction on a Nation-to-Nation basis. We draw on sacred law, traditional law, customary laws – we need to protect the lands, waters and all living things for future generations.”**
- E. The five principles of the declaration include: 1) No abandonment; 2) Better containment, more packaging; 3) Monitored and retrievable storage; 4) Away from major water bodies; and 5) No imports or exports.**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

- 1. Demand that free, prior and informed consent is required to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in First Nations lands and territories.**
- 2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the federal government to fulfill its duty to consult and accommodate and obtain the free prior and informed consent of the Anishinabek Nation and other First Nations regarding activity at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and Chalk River Laboratories.**

3. **Direct the Iroquois Caucus, Anishinabek Nation and other First Nations to form an ad hoc group with the Chiefs of Ontario and report back to Chiefs-in-Assembly on progress made with the federal government, as often as possible, beginning with the December 2017 AFN Special Chiefs Assembly.**

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 27th of July 2017 in Regina, Saskatchewan

Note: Expanded version of the five principles:

For the long-term management of radioactive wastes, the five principles that were all agreed upon are:

1. No Abandonment: Radioactive waste materials are damaging to living things. Many of these materials remain dangerous for tens of thousands of years or even longer. They must be kept out of the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the land we live on for many generations to come. The forces of Mother Earth are powerful and unpredictable and no human-made structures can be counted on to resist those forces forever. Such dangerous materials cannot be abandoned and forgotten.

2. Monitored and Retrievable Storage: Continuous guardianship of nuclear waste material is needed. This means long-term monitoring and retrievable storage. Information and resources must be passed on from one generation to the next so that our grandchildren's grandchildren will be able to detect any signs of leakage of radioactive waste materials and protect themselves. They need to know how to fix such leaks as soon as they happen.

3. Better Containment, More Packaging: Cost and profit must never be the basis for long-term radioactive waste management. Paying a higher price for better containment today will help prevent much greater costs in the future when containment fails. Such failure will include irreparable environmental damage and radiation-induced diseases. The right kinds of packaging should be designed to make it easier to monitor, retrieve, and repackage insecure portions of the waste inventory as needed, for centuries to come.

4. Away from Major Water Bodies: Rivers and lakes are the blood and the lungs of Mother Earth. When we contaminate our waterways, we are poisoning life itself. That is why radioactive waste must not be stored beside major water bodies for the long-term. Yet this is exactly what is being planned at five locations in Canada: Kincardine on Lake Huron, Port Hope near Lake Ontario, Pinawa beside the Winnipeg River, and Chalk River and Rolphton beside the Ottawa River.

5. No Imports or Exports: The import and export of nuclear wastes over public roads and bridges should be forbidden except in truly exceptional cases after full consultation with all whose lands and waters are being put at risk. In particular, the planned shipment of highly radioactive liquid from Chalk River to South Carolina should not be allowed because it can be down-blended and solidified on site at Chalk River. Transport of nuclear waste should be strictly limited and decided on a case-by-case basis with full consultation with all those affected.

See

www.ccnr.org/Joint_Declaration_2017.pdf

or

www.ccnr.org/Joint_Declaration_pack.pdf