



**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO
FALL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
November 18-19, 2025**

**RESOLUTION 25/33S
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SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION AND BURIAL

MOVER: Proxy Kyle Maclaurin, Fort William First Nation

SECONDER: Proxy Mel Hardy, Namaygoosisagun First Nation

DECISION: CARRIED

WHEREAS:

1. Chiefs of Ontario supports all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood, as articulated in the Chiefs of Ontario “We are the Land” Declaration (2010);
2. In 2024 the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) selected the Revell site between Ignace and Dryden in northwestern Ontario as the site for a deep geological repository to store all of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste;
3. In their Reconciliation Policy the NWMO commits to “seeking the free, prior, and informed consent of impacted Indigenous peoples before proceeding with development of a deep geological repository” but are proceeding without having sought or received the consent of many First Nations that could be affected by the proposed repository;
4. First Nations in Ontario have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the transportation and burial of nuclear waste in their territories and on their watersheds, including:
 - a) A 2024 resolution from Grand Council Treaty 3 which declared “a Deep Geological Repository for the storage of nuclear waste will not be developed at any point in the Treaty #3 Territory” (Resolution CA-24-14);
 - b) A 2022 resolution by Nishnawbe Aski Nation opposing NWMO’s proposed transportation and burial of nuclear waste in northern Ontario (Resolution 22/13);
 - c) A 2021 resolution by the Chiefs of Ontario calling for a halt to new nuclear reactor construction, a phase out of nuclear waste generating nuclear power

- plants, and the containment and management of the radioactive wastes in their current location rather than transporting and burying these wastes;
- d) A 2017 Joint Declaration between the Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus that opposed the transportation and abandonment of radioactive wastes which was supported by the Chiefs of Ontario; and
 - e) Numerous Band Council Resolutions and public statements from individual First Nations located downstream of the proposed repository site or along potential transportation corridors.
5. Neither the NWMO nor the Crown have sought or received the consent of First Nations along the transportation route for the shipment of radioactive waste through their territory;
 6. In their 2021 *Deep Geological Repository Transportation System Conceptual Design Report Crystalline / Sedimentary Rock*, the NWMO estimated 2-3 shipments per day for a period of fifty years, transporting the high-level nuclear waste by truck from the 5 nuclear reactor stations and the Chalk River nuclear laboratory;
 7. The average distance between the current location of the waste and the proposed Revell site is 1,700 km and the transportation route will put the territories of First Nations in Ontario at serious risk;
 8. The transportation risks include:
 - a) low level emissions of radiation from each transportation shipment under “normal” conditions;
 - b) higher levels of exposure to radiation from the transportation packages when bystanders, passengers in other vehicles or workers are in proximity to the shipments for longer periods of time (such as delays due to traffic congestion, or stoppages due to road construction, road accidents, or road closures due to events such as fire or flooding);
 - c) the risk of significant radiation exposure if a container is breached during an accident
 9. A federal Impact Assessment Process and a licensing process under the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is expected to commence in 2026, through which the NWMO will be seeking approval of their project;
 10. Since 2005, the NWMO has described transportation as being part of their nuclear waste project, including in:
 - a) the NWMO’s 2005 *Choosing a Way Forward* report, which set out their recommendations to the federal government for long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, as per the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*; and

- b) numerous reports, statements and publications issued by the NWMO between 2005 and 2025.
11. Despite the NWMO's consistent position that transportation is part of the nuclear waste project, in August 2025, the NWMO went on record during a public webinar, announcing their intention to exclude transportation from the upcoming impact assessment process;
 12. NWMO's exclusion of transportation from the impact assessment process contradicts its own position which it has held and publicly shared for the past 20 years;
 13. Transportation is a key concern for the Chiefs of Ontario and for First Nations and communities along the transportation route; and
 14. The project could not be carried out at the NWMO's selected location without transporting the wastes an average of 1,700 kilometres from the reactor stations to the selected location.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Chiefs in Assembly:

1. Are opposed to the transportation and burial of radioactive wastes in First Nations territory without free, prior, and informed consent of all of the impacted First Nations, including the transportation of high-level nuclear fuel waste in Ontario.
2. Call upon the responsible federal Ministries to meet with the Nations that are affected and remain opposed.
3. Call upon the federal Crown and its agents, including the IAAC, to ensure that First Nations along potential transportation routes are adequately resourced and supported to participate in all stages of the Impact Assessment and licensing processes, with sufficient technical and administrative capacity to engage its membership, technical experts, and the Crown and its agencies.

Certified Copy of a Resolution dated November 19, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abram Benedict', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Abram Benedict, Ontario Regional Chief