

**MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION
MINUTES OF CHIEF AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 23, 2015 – 4:00 PM IN THE BAND HALL**

Council:

Chief Joe Buckell
Councillor Linda Peterson
Councillor Don Humphries
Councillor Irene Armstrong
Councillor Evelyn Stone
Councillor Bill Swanson
Councillor Myrtle Swanson

3. MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION (MFN) OPPOSES THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NWMO) OPERATING WITHIN THEIR TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

BCR # 2015-15

MOTION # 19/2015

Moved: Myrtle Swanson

Seconded: Don Humphries

WHEREAS, Northern Ontario is being targeted to become a storage site for 2 million bundles of irradiated high level nuclear waste fuel bundles; these radioactive nuclear bundles would be shipped through our traditional homelands, buried, covered up and eventually abandoned. The process of burying high level radioactive nuclear waste 500 metres under the earth's surface is experimental and has not been carried out anywhere in the world. The White River, Homepayne, and Manitowadge Municipalities are working with the NWMO to become the host community for nuclear waste, if any one of these communities is selected, this would result in NWMO burying ALL OF CANADA'S HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE NUCLEAR WASTE in our Traditional territory, and

WHEREAS, Michipicoten First Nation (MFN) has used and occupied these lands since time immemorial. MFN consistently asserts its rights to our lands and resources on behalf of our citizens, and our people have practiced their Aboriginal rights on these lands and these rights are protected by s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982. Our Aboriginal rights include hunting, fishing, trapping, medicinal harvesting, food harvesting, camping, gathering and conducting ceremonies etc., and

WHEREAS, we have a mandate from the Creator to protect our lands and waters and have been doing so for thousands of years. Nuclear waste is a poison that will damage our homelands and the natural resources for which we depend upon, including our ability to practice our Aboriginal rights and traditional ways within our territory, and

WHEREAS, (a) we are fully aware that the Deep Geological Repository would need to be isolated from people and the environment for a million years; (b) we realize that the half-life of such waste is 10,000 years; (c) we have considered the extreme danger to our traditional and contemporary homelands, lifecycle and Mother Earth; and (d) we have concluded that there is no such area in our traditional territory that could host such a site, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states in Article 26 that: "indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, or otherwise used or acquired. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the Indigenous peoples concerned.", and

WHEREAS, UNDRIP states in Article 29 that: "Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources; States shall establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination"; and

WHEREAS, the White River, Homepayne and Manitowadge Municipalities have erroneously represented themselves for potential host communities because the repository sites would be located outside of their municipal boundaries and within the traditional territory of MFN, and they have done so without the informed consent of Michipicoten First Nation, and

WHEREAS, Michipicoten First Nation supports our First Nation brothers and sisters in our traditional territories in their opposition to a Nuclear Waste Repository.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michipicoten First Nation hereby unequivocally states its opposition to the transportation, disposal and storage of used nuclear fuel/high level radioactive waste in the MFN Traditional territories which specifically includes the sites in and around the municipalities of White River, Homepayne and Manitowadge. WE SAY NO TO NUCLEAR WASTE.

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CARRIED