

Resolution concerning the pollution of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by ionizing radiation

Whereas the pollution caused by the presence of nuclear radiation discharged into the Great Lakes and thence into the St. Lawrence River from uranium mining, tailings ponds, waste disposal sites, and refining operations and also discharges of radioisotopes including tritium and plutonium from nuclear power plants and other nuclear installations and waste disposal sites, are a proven health hazard to both humans and other living organisms in the ecosystem; and,

Whereas the International Joint Commission (IJC) has identified the radionuclides technetium 99, -99m; phosphorus-32; chromium-51; cesium-134, -137; cerium-141, -144; strontium-89, -90; iodine-125, -131; and cobalt-60 as of concern and that they have recommended that the U.S. and Canadian governments investigate and report toxicological and ecological problems associated with tritium, carbon-14, iodine-129, isotopes of plutonium and radium-226; and,

Whereas there is no level of ionizing radiation that is acceptable for human or environmental health; and,

Whereas harm from even low levels of ionizing radiation are a cause of cancer, genetic effects, and teratogenic effects (such as miscarriages and birth defects) and are widely recognized by scientists independent of the governments of Canada and the United States or the nuclear industry; and,

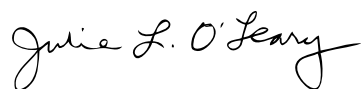
Whereas there are plans to increase the number of uranium mines, refining operations, nuclear power plants, and disposal facilities, within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River watershed; and,

Whereas because of climate change, the level of water in the Great Lakes will likely decrease, leading to an increase in the concentration of ionizing radiation in the Great Lakes.

Therefore be it resolved that Great Lakes United take action to inform the general public, the U.S. and Canadian federal governments, other appropriate governing bodies, and the International Joint Commission of the health risks associated with pollution of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River by ionizing radiation. Specifically, Great Lakes United will:

- draft a letter outlining these concerns to the U.S. and Canadian federal governments and the International Joint Commission; and,
- Ensure the coalition membership and concerned citizens are kept aware of this issue.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a resolution adopted at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of Great Lakes United on May 20, 2009.



Julie O'Leary, President