

July 12, 2017

To: Brent Kittmer, CAO/Clerk, Town of St. Marys

From: Fred Kuntz, Manager of Corporate Relations and Communications – Bruce County, Ontario Power Generation

Re: **OPG's proposed Deep Geologic Project – relevance to Town of St. Marys**

You advised that this matter may be on council's agenda on July 25, 2017, and requested any information that may help council to evaluate what impact the proposal would have on the Town of St. Marys.

The Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) is a proposed facility for the permanent disposal of low- and intermediate-level waste from three OPG-owned nuclear generating stations, at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington sites.

The Town of St. Mary's, like all communities in Ontario, has benefitted from nuclear energy, which is the source of 60% of the electricity in Ontario. Nuclear energy is:

- **Clean** – its generation produces zero carbon emissions.
- **Low-cost** – Nuclear energy helps to moderate consumer bills.
- **Reliable** – Nuclear energy is always available when other forms such as wind and solar are not.
- **Safe** – OPG's Candu reactors have a world-renowned record of safety excellence.

The Town of St. Marys has a stake, as do all Ontarians, in the responsible and safe disposal of nuclear waste. St. Marys is just 60 kilometres from the Great Lakes; its residents have an interest in the very long-term protection of the Great Lakes and the environment in general. In this regard, the DGR – as an environmental protection initiative – is based on 15 years of scientific research and regulatory scrutiny:

- International experts agree that, for the permanent disposal of nuclear waste, a DGR is best practice.
- OPG's DGR project has been intensively reviewed, including by a record-long federal Joint Review Panel (JRP), the most rigorous process available for an Environmental Assessment.
- After two years of public hearings in 2013-14, the JRP concluded in 2015 that:
 - The Bruce site is appropriate. The site's ideal geology, at a depth of 680 metres – deeper than the CN Tower is tall – has impermeable rock that will safely contain the waste for the very long term.
 - The lake and environment are protected. The JRP stated that, even in extreme and disruptive scenarios, the DGR would have no effect on Lake Huron; public health and safety are protected.
 - The project should proceed "now rather than later"; the sooner the better, the panel report said, as the DGR is safer in the very long term than continual storage of nuclear waste at the surface.

St. Marys municipal council may also have an interest – as might all municipal councils – in due regard for formal expressions of support by the council representing the most directly affected community.

- The Municipality of Kincardine strongly supports the DGR project. Kincardine originated the request for a solution to the waste. It is the DGR's willing host under a 2004 agreement with OPG. It has passed multiple municipal-council resolutions in favour of it, including as recently as February 2017.
- The DGR is also supported by the adjacent municipalities: the Town of Saugeen Shores and the Township of Huron-Kinloss, as well as by the higher-tier regional Bruce County government.
- The DGR is also supported by local Chambers of Commerce, the local labour council, the local regional public health unit and other local non-governmental organizations.
- All of this support is based on respect for evidence and for due process. For more than a decade, local councillors and civic leaders have immersed themselves in knowledge about the DGR, the scientific research and the safety case. Councillors attended lengthy public hearings, read the reports, asked their questions and have, by strong majorities and through multiple municipal elections, declared themselves in favour of the DGR as the best way to deal responsibly with nuclear waste – the right thing to do for future generations.