



GREAT LAKES
GLLC
ST. LAWRENCE
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

**Legislative Perspectives on
Nuclear Waste Storage in the Great
Lakes Basin**

October 7, 2025

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus (GLLC)

The GLLC is a binational, nonpartisan group of state and provincial lawmakers from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region working to protect and restore the basin.



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GLLC Policy Areas for 2023-2027



Water Consumption



Aquatic Invasive Species



Coastal Resiliency



Nutrient Management



Toxic Substances

GLLC Executive Committee for 2025-2026



Chair: Senator Laura Fine (IL)

Vice Chair: Representative Dave Abbott (IN)

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Senator Sue Shink (MI)

Senator Mary Kunesh (MN)

Senator Pamela Helming (NY)

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Representative Robyn Gabel (IL)

Senator Ed Charbonneau (IN)

Senator Ann Rest (MN)

Representative Lisa Subeck (WI)

Representative Morgan Foreman (MI)

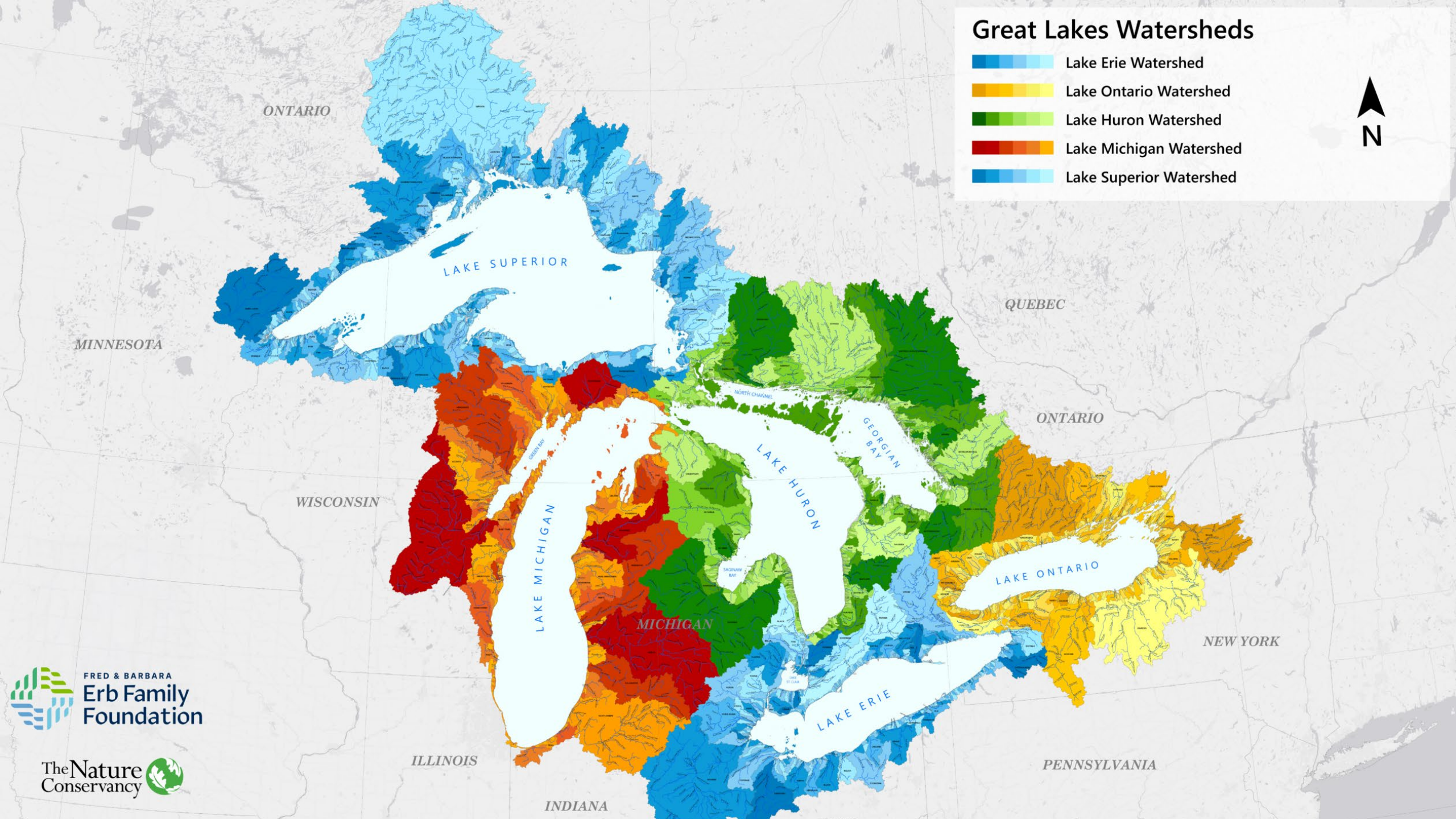
Rosemary Bayer (MI)

Representative Sonya Marie Harper (IL)

Former Representative Rachel Hood (MI)

Great Lakes Watersheds

-  Lake Erie Watershed
-  Lake Ontario Watershed
-  Lake Huron Watershed
-  Lake Michigan Watershed
-  Lake Superior Watershed



FRED & BARBARA
**Erb Family
Foundation**

The Nature
Conservancy 

GREAT LAKES REGION NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Nuclear Energy in the Great Lakes Basin



LEGEND ONLY FACILITIES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION ARE ON THIS MAP

- Uranium Mining and Mill Tailings
- Operating Nuclear Power Reactors*
- Closed Nuclear Power Reactors**
- Nuclear Fuel Waste
- Low-and/or Intermediate-Level Radioactive Waste (L&ILRW) Sites**
- Uranium Processing & Fuel Fabrication
- Deep Geological Repository (DGR)
- Incinerator

* Number in brackets () indicates the number of reactors **These wastes are also stored at all nuclear power reactor sites

- Original production by Irene Koch, 1990-91, Nuclear Awareness Project.
- Updated by Anna Tilman [annatilman@sympatico.ca] and John Jackson [jjackson@web.ca], May 1, 2013.
- Funded by the Citizens' Clearinghouse on Waste Management and Great Lakes United.
- Updated with permission by Ryan C. Graydon [rgraydon.ijc@gmail.com], International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Water Quality Board, January 5, 2021.



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IJC Water Quality Board Recommendations - Storage

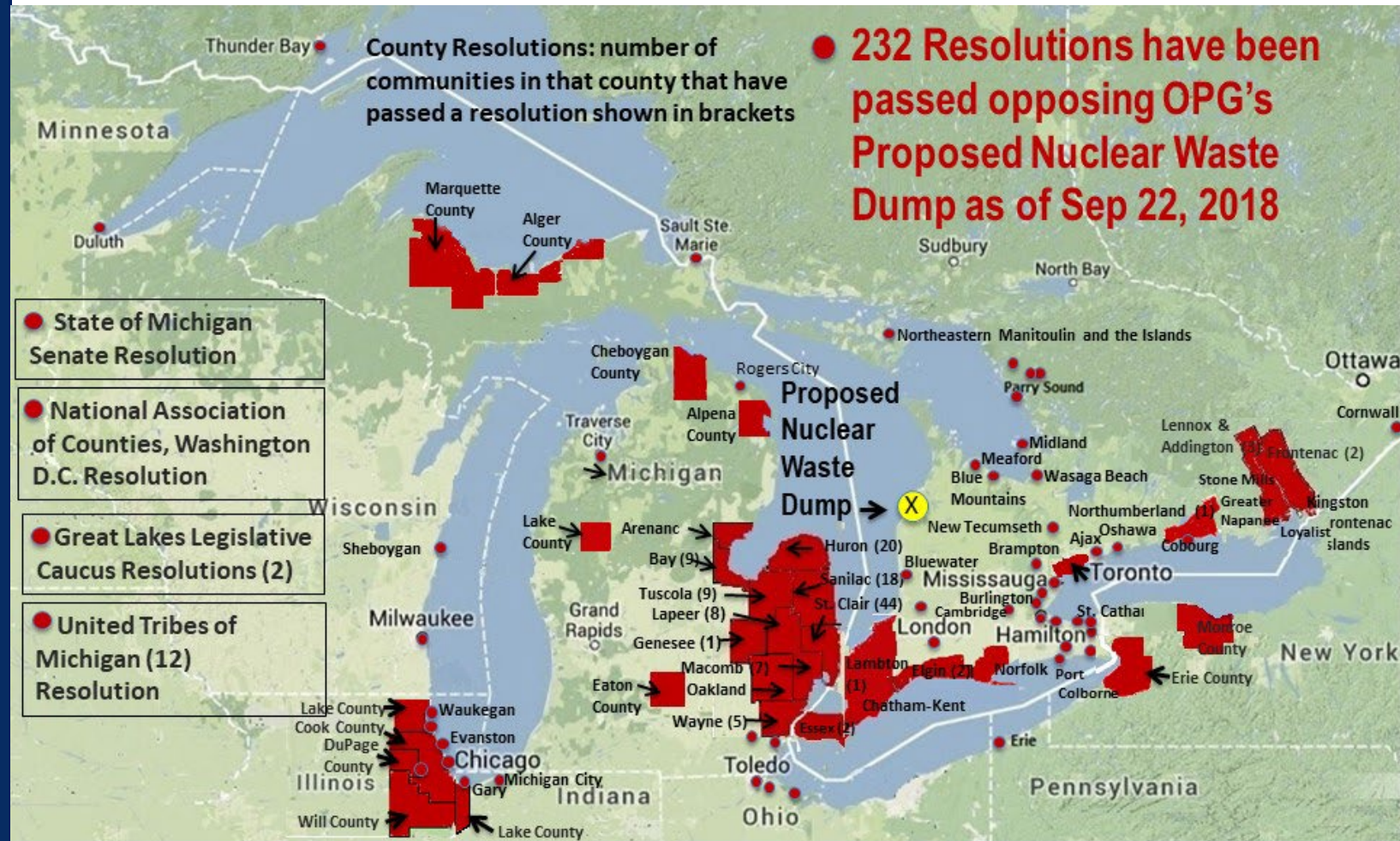
- Nuclear waste storage facilities in the basin should be hardened, located away from shorelines and flood risks
- Remove spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive wastes from the Great Lakes shorelines as soon as licenses storage facilities become operational
- Recommends consent-based approach to siting permanent storage for radioactive waste
- Encourages continued pursuit of consolidated interim storage facilities
- Discourages approval of any CISFs or permanent storage facilities near the shores of the Great Lakes or any tributaries

IJC Water Quality Board Recommendations- Transit

- Recommends prohibiting the transport of spent nuclear fuel on the Great Lakes and its tributaries.
- Planned transportation routes should avoid population centers wherever possible and taking all appropriate precautions when crossing bodies of water.
- Proposed transportation routes should undergo detailed risk assessments and, prior to any shipment, confidentially sharing the risk assessment reports and shipment plans with the appropriate emergency management authorities at the state or provincial level and with the local governments of each of the communities along the proposed transit routes to enable proper emergency preparedness.
- There should be as few transfers between transportation modes as possible

Longterm Nuclear Storage – Ontario Power Generation

- DGR for low and intermediate waste
- Sited on the Bruce Peninsula, in the basin, not on the shoreline
- Substantial pushback from entities on both sides of the border



Communities in Canada and the US (Pop.= 23.4 million), the National Association of Counties representing 3,069 US counties (Pop. = 255 million) & the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus representing lawmakers from 8 Great Lakes States, Ontario and Québec are saying **NO** to OPG's Proposed Nuclear Waste Dump anywhere in the Great Lakes Basin

www.StopTheGreatLakesNuclearDump.com

GLLC Resolutions in 2015 and 2018

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus urges the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to reject and seek alternatives to Ontario Power Generation's proposal to bury radioactive waste in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus urges the President of the United States to request that the Secretary of State invoke the participation of the International Joint Commission under Article IX, Article X, or both of the Boundary Waters Treaty to evaluate the proposed underground nuclear waste repository in Ontario, Canada, and similar facilities, and we urge the United States Congress to support the request; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Ontario Power Generation, the Members of Congress from the Great Lakes states, and the governors and premiers, the legislative majority and minority leaders, and government house leaders of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence states and provinces.

Adopted on September 22, 2018.

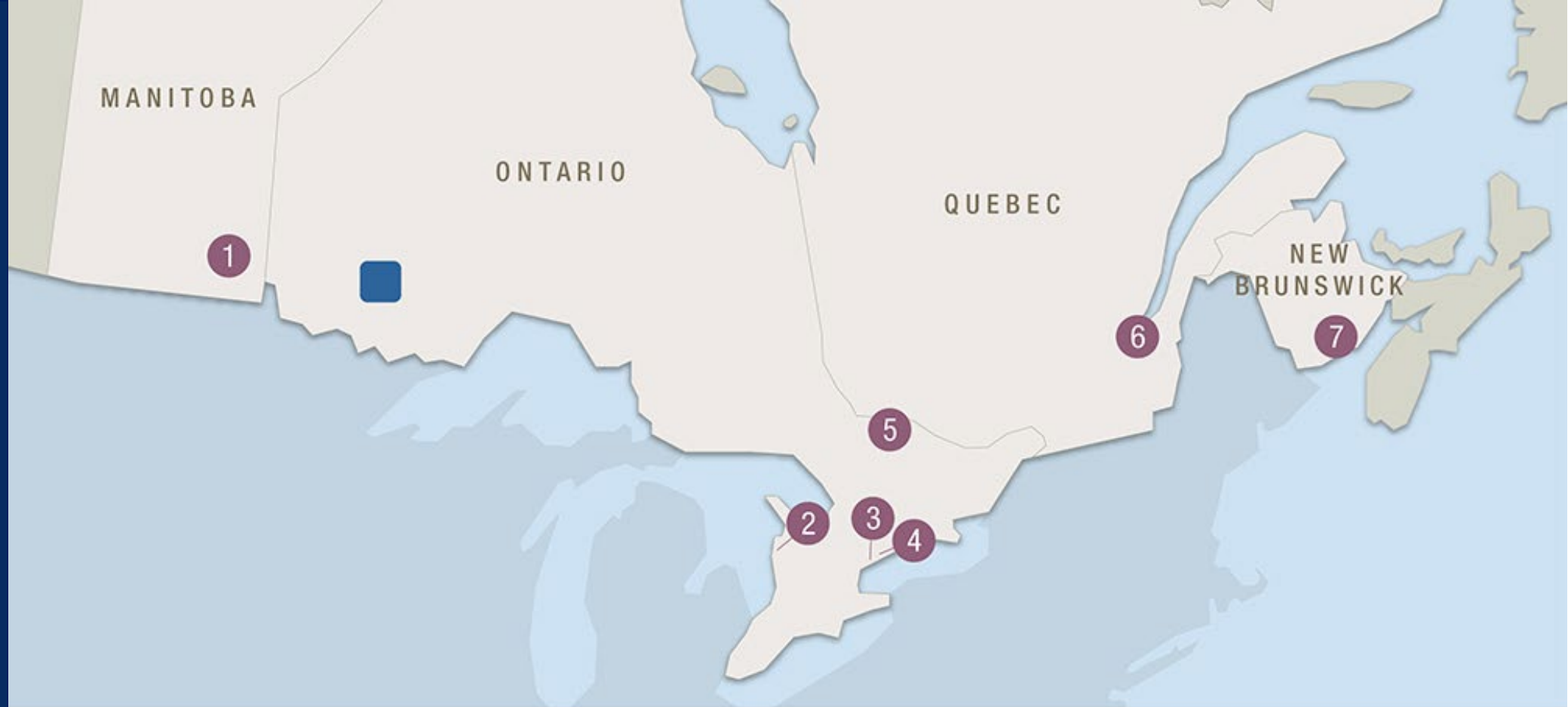


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Nuclear Waste Management Organization



● **Interim storage facilities**

1. Whiteshell Laboratories
2. Bruce Nuclear Generating Station
3. Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
4. Darlington Nuclear Generating Station
5. Chalk River Laboratories
6. Gentilly Nuclear Generating Station
7. Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station

■ **Host communities for the selected site
for the deep geological repository
for used nuclear fuel**

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and
the Township of Ignace

Takeaways for the U.S.

- Established legislative opposition to long-term nuclear storage in the Great Lakes basin with the potential for treaty and legislative action
- Growing urgency to transport nuclear waste out of the Great Lakes basin

