

Resolution on the disposal of West Valley, New York Radioactive Reprocessing Wastes

Whereas in 2004 Great Lakes United resolved against the abandonment of highly radioactive wastes, and in support of full exhumation and containment, at the West Valley, NY former nuclear reprocessing and dump site, 30 miles south of Buffalo, upstream of Lakes Erie and Ontario; and,

Whereas the vast majority of the long-lasting hazardous radioactive contamination at the West Valley, New York site is due to the radioactive waste reprocessing performed there; and,

Whereas a broad-based coalition of international, national, state and local environmental, religious, conservation and labor organizations including Great Lakes United are urging the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) to immediately select the Site-wide Waste Removal cleanup approach as the decommissioning plan at West Valley in order to effectively protect public health and the Great Lakes region; and,

Whereas a recent independent, New York State-funded study, *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site*, revealed waste excavation would cost less than \$10 billion, while leaving dangerous buried radioactive waste onsite could cost \$13 billion to \$27 billion if a catastrophic release occurred; and,

Whereas according to *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste*, West Valley's radioactive wastes, hazardous for tens of thousands of years, as a result of erosion, will be discharged downstream to Lakes Erie and Ontario in less than 3,000 years, and may be dangerously exposed to the elements in just a few hundred years, posing significant risks to residents immediately downstream, including the Seneca Nation, as well as residents along the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario; and,

Whereas according to *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste*, just 1% of the radioactivity leaking from the West Valley site would expose Lake Erie water users to substantial radiation doses, causing hundreds of cancer deaths, and forcing the replacement of the Buffalo and Erie Counties' drinking water supply, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars; and,

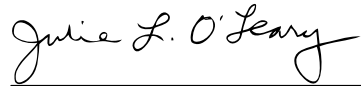
Whereas the Phased Decision-Making approach, preferred by DOE and NYSERDA, would clean up only 1% of the site's radioactivity and delay a cleanup decision on the remaining 99% of the radioactivity for up to 30 years.

Therefore, be it resolved that Great Lakes United urges the DOE and NYSERDA to immediately select the Site-wide Waste Removal cleanup approach at West Valley in order to effectively protect public health and the Great Lakes region from the West Valley's hazardous radioactivity; and,

Therefore be it further resolved that Great Lakes United opposes radioactive waste reprocessing due to its inevitable risks of nuclear weapons proliferation and environmental devastation, as well as astronomical cost to taxpayers; and,

Therefore be it further resolved to deliver a copy of this resolution to the appropriate DOE and NYSERDA officials by their June 8, 2009 deadline for public comments on the West Valley Draft Environmental Impact Statement and decommissioning plan, as well as to other government agencies and public officials.

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie L. O'Leary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Julie O'Leary, President