



# UNITED NATIONS

## 17TH SESSION OF THE UN PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Hello my name is Randi Red Hawk Hastings.

I come from the YOUNGOGAHEMY RIVER BAND TRIBE OF SHAWNEE NATION.

My bloodline through my mother is of Shawnee and Cherokee nations. My bloodline on my father's side is of Ojibwa Nation and white descent.

I come here today with great concern of our waterways, An essential need for all life.

Off the shores of Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada. About 110 miles up from Port Huron, Michigan my home town is where they have proposed to put the nuclear waste.

The DGR is projected to hold 200,000 cubic meters of waste, some of which will remain toxic for at least 100,000 years, roughly 10 times longer than the Great Lakes have been in existence. Putting so much poisonous waste so close to the lakes amounts to madness, especially given that all major underground burial sites for nuclear waste to date have leaked.

The Great Lakes are critically important resources to both Canada and the United States. Supplying drinking water to 40 million people.

The Great Lakes supports fishing, boating, recreation, tourism, and agriculture the life blood of a \$6 Trillion dollar Great Lakes region economy.

This is merely one of many threats to our water.

Indigenous people in the shadow of one of the worlds largest nuclear reactors are adamant their values will underpin their decisions on whether to approve a proposed multi million dollar storage bunker for radioactive waste.

I need to remind everyone of the Ojibwe and Chippewa Nations that have long complained about being shut out of decisions related to the power plant. We know and fear that their complaints are going unheard.

All these lives and natural resources are at stake.

Water is a birthright not a man made right, nor is it a luxury. Every living thing on Mother Earth needs water to grow and to flourish. We have the right to have clean drinking water and we shouldn't have to prove what a horrible idea it is to bury radioactive nuclear waste in our beloved lake.