

Endorsing Organizations:

Bruce Peninsula Environment Group (ON)
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CDA)
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
Canadian Environmental Law Association (ON)
Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario (ON)
Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury (ON)
Committee for Future Generations (SK)
Concerned Citizens Committee of Manitoba (MB)
CCNB Action (NB)
CCNB Action, Saint John Fundy Chapter (MB)
Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan (SK)
Concerned Citizens of Hornepayne (ON)
Council of Canadians (CDA)
Durham Nuclear Awareness (ON)
Environment North (ON)
Families Against Radiation Exposure (FARE) (ON)
Great Lakes United (INT)
Greenpeace Canada (CDA)
Huron Grey Bruce Citizens Committee on Nuclear Waste (ON)
Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative (SK)
International Institute of Concern for Public Health (CDA)
Inverhuron Committee (ON)
Metis Nation-Saskatchewan Local 108 Fish Lake (SK)
National Council of Women of Canada (CDA)
Nipissing Environment Watch (ON)
Northwatch (ON)
Nuclear Free Sudbury (ON)
Physicians for Global Survival (INT)
Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee (ON)
Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (ON)
Sierra Club Canada (CDA)
Sierra Club Ontario (ON)
Temiskaming Environmental Action Committee (ON)
Women's Healthy Environments Network (WHEN) (ON)

As of November 2012, the endorsing organizations have expressed their support for the 2012 Position statement and the Nuclear Waste Watch letter to federal minister of Natural Resources the Hon. Joe Oliver and open letter to communities being investigated by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization as possible burial sites for all of Canada's high level nuclear fuel waste. On November 15th, 2012 – marking the 10th anniversary of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act becoming law – Nuclear Waste Watch wrote to the federal Minister of Natural Resources, are calling on him to review the legislation and its implementation. Recognizing that conducting a review of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act will require several months, Nuclear Waste Watch urged the Minister to take more immediate corrective action as an interim step, and asked him to:

- Direct the NWMO to act in an open and transparent manner, including through disclosure of its community engagement activities and maintaining on its web site a list of communities at any stage in the NWMO siting process and related NWMO activities
- Create a third-party agency – arm's length from the nuclear industry – to provide independent peer review of the NWMO's technical work and scientific statements
- Ensure that the Nuclear Fuel Waste Bureau meets its mandate of informing and consulting the general public on an ongoing basis to enhance the participation of interested stakeholders
- Confirm that interactions between the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization in no manner constitute a pre-approval of any eventual design for which the NWMO may seek approval from the CNSC and that records of all meetings and exchanges of information are placed on the public record

Read the complete letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Nuclear Waste Watch's open letter to communities being studied as potential burial sites online at www.NuclearWasteWatch.net



NUCLEAR WASTE WATCH

A Network of Organizations
Concerned about High Level
Radioactive Waste and Nuclear
Power in Canada

www.NuclearWasteWatch.ca

NUCLEAR WASTE WATCH Position Statement November 2012¹

Stop Making It

1. The first priority of responsible waste management is reduction at source. The reduction and elimination of high-level radioactive waste production, however, has not been prioritized or even meaningfully considered by the federal government or Canadian waste producers.
2. Canada can and should eliminate high-level radioactive waste production. Numerous studies show that the replacement of aging nuclear reactors with other energy sources and a shift towards 100% renewable energy - coupled with conservation - is possible and cost effective.

Geological Disposal

3. There is no geological repository for nuclear fuel waste operating anywhere in the world. Despite decades of study, the technical case has not been made for geological disposal, and numerous technical challenges persist.
4. As concluded in the Seaborn Panel Report in 1998, neither the safety nor the acceptability of deep geological disposal of radioactive waste was established to the satisfaction of that federal environmental assessment panel after reviewing the evidence presented during a ten-year review of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's *Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and Disposal Concept*, which relied on geological disposal.

5. Given that waste continues to be generated while the case for a socially accepted or technically proven long-term management option has not been convincingly made, nuclear waste management should be based on surface and/or near-surface monitored and retrievable storage at or close to its current location.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

6. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is an industrial association of the generators and owners of nuclear fuel waste, (namely New Brunswick Power, Hydro Quebec and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) - the three provincial utilities who own 98% of Canada's high level nuclear waste). This is in direct contrast to the Seaborn Panel recommendations that an "at arm's length" agency be formed, independent of the nuclear industry, with a board of directors representative of independent "key stakeholders".
7. The Nuclear Fuel Waste Act provides the NWMO with a mandate to address nuclear fuel waste from previous and currently operating nuclear reactors in Canada. The NWMO is exceeding their mandate by seeking to incorporate into their program fuel waste from as-yet-unbuilt and unapproved new reactor designs that produce more toxic and long-lived radioactive wastes and by assuming responsibilities from OPG for the management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste.
8. The NWMO's approach to "consulting" with Canadians has been flawed in each phase of the NWMO's endeavours to date. The NWMO failed to meet the requirements of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act in developing its preferred option of "Adaptive Phased Management", has lacked openness and transparency, and

has not fulfilled its duty to consult with Canada's indigenous peoples.

9. If the NWMO proceeds to site a centralized nuclear waste facility there will be risks to communities along the transportation route. These risks will increase if nuclear waste production is allowed to continue. Communities along a potential transport route should have veto power over the route and should have access to funding from proponents via a neutral third-party for independent research and community education to support their community decision-making.
10. A community selected by the NWMO as a site for a geological repository and those living in the area should have veto power that extends beyond the completion of final studies and any environmental assessment, impact assessment or evaluation.

Export and Import of Nuclear Waste

11. The Canadian Government should guarantee that Canada will not import or export radioactive waste, including through any bilateral agreements or as a result of participation in any multi or bilateral agreements or partnerships.



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¹ This statement updates the Nuclear Waste Watch Position Statement of 2003.