The Inverhuron Committee

Dear Inverhuron Resident:

Ontario is going to the polls June 12, 2014! This is a unique and timely opportunity for all residents of Inverhuron to approach the candidates who are running in their riding to speak about the proposed construction of a deep geologic repository (DGR) for low and intermediate level nuclear waste at the Bruce Nuclear site.

We encourage all residents to attend their candidate meetings/debates and pose questions about the proposed project. Sample questions are provided below.

If you are not planning to attend candidate presentations, then please take the time to write a letter to each candidate in your riding, asking for their support in opposing this project. You will find a sample letter at the end of the email.

As local residents, we have a huge part to play in stopping this project! We are counting on each one of you to stand up and to make your voice heard against burying nuclear waste right beside Lake Huron. Thank you!

The Inverhuron Committee
Marti McFadzean, Chair of the Board of Directors
Dale Palin, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors
Sharon Cross, Director of the Board
John Cameron, Director of the Board
Eugene Bourgeois, Member of the Working Group
Doug Hunter, Member of the Working Group
Donald Stewart, Member of the Working Group

Sample Questions

Sample questions to ask candidates about OPG's proposal to construct a DGR for low and intermediate level radioactive waste about 1.2 km from the shore of Lake Huron at the Bruce Nuclear site?
1. What is your party's position on this project?
2. Is your government willing to approve a project that the proponent says is "not likely" to affect the drinking water of more than 40 million people in Canada and the United States? Is no guarantee good enough for our future generations?
3. Are you aware that it is not just mops and rags that OPG is proposing to bury? In reality, as per the current proposal, 20% of the buried waste would be intermediate level waste that will remain radioactive for 100,000 years.
4. Why is the Municipality of Kincardine, with a population of 11,000, allowed to make a decision to bury low and intermediate nuclear waste on the shores of Lake Huron, that could affect the drinking water of 40 million residents of Canada and the United States? 55 communities around the Great Lakes in Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, which represent over 10 million people, have passed resolutions against the proposed project.
5. Is it ethical for OPG and NWMO to pay communities large sums of money to entice them to be willing hosts? Is there not a conflict of interest by the Council of Kincardine and the Mayor when their community is receiving a total of 35 million dollars to support this project?
6. Although the Federal Government is studying the proposal from OPG to construct a DGR for low and intermediate level radioactive waste about 1.2 km from the shore of Lake Huron at the Bruce Nuclear site, doesn't the Ontario Government have the ultimate decision?
7. In the end, if this questionable project is cancelled, millions of dollars will have already been spent. Is this another gas plant fiasco like in Oakville?

Sample Letter to Candidates

Dear (name of Candidate):

I am a resident of your electoral district as well as a seasonal resident of Inverhuron in the Municipality of Kincardine. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) proposes to construct a deep geologic repository (DGR) to bury low and intermediate level radioactive waste about 1.2 km from the shore of Lake Huron at the Bruce Nuclear site.

The proximity of this project to the Great Lakes is unacceptable as the Great Lakes represent 21% of the world's fresh water, the fresh drinking water for 40 million Canadians and Americans. We cannot risk a leak from this underground storage facility so close to this irreplaceable freshwater supply.

Here are some of the concerns that the residents of Inverhuron have regarding OPG's proposal:

* The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico has been touted as the model for the construction of the repository at the Bruce site. This repository, the only operating storage facility in North America, had an underground shaft fire in February 2014, followed by a radiation leak to the air and groundwater that affected 21 workers. This
accident has resulted in the closure of the repository with no news as to, if, or when, it may reopen.

* Dr. Frank Greening, a retired OPG scientist, recently exposed this project as having serious flaws in terms of the amount of radiation that will be contained in the materials to be stored in the Bruce site facility. Dr. Greening indicated that the underestimation is by as much as 100 times.

* Dr. Peter Duinker, an environmental scientist hired by the Joint Review Panel (JRP) reviewed the Environmental Assessment data provided by OPG and reported at the Hearing held in Fall 2013, that the basis of their conclusions was "not credible." This is very alarming; it raises major flags.

OPG did not perform due diligence by investigating any alternate sites, although the JRP has now directed them to do so. OPG is paying millions of dollars to Kincardine to host the proposed DGR, based on a telephone survey in which only 4,067 citizens said yes to hosting.

In contrast, 55 communities around the Great Lakes in Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, representing more than 10 million people, have passed resolutions indicating their concerns and opposition to this project moving forward. A group called Stop The Great Lakes Nuclear Dump has collected over 55,000 signatures on a petition to stop this project.

I am most concerned that you are aware of this project but also want to ask for a commitment from you and your Party to study this project carefully and, hopefully, realize as we did, that this project cannot be located along the Great Lakes with radioactive waste buried there for 100,000 years.

The initial study recommended selecting a site in the Canadian Shield. Other methods of storage are actively being examined in light of the recent WIPP failure. This project cannot be sanctioned as designed and in the fragile and untenable site proposed.

Therefore, we ask for your support in opposing this risky and unproven project for the sake of all Canadians and Americans.

Sincerely,

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