



November 30, 2015

The Inverhuron Committee

Dear Inverhuron Resident:

We are pleased to report that the deadline for the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change to decide on the proposed project to build an underground nuclear dump at the Bruce Nuclear Site has been delayed to March 1, 2016.

We were one of sixty-five Canadian and U.S. public interest groups who sent a [joint letter](#) to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, on November 19th, urging her to reject Ontario Power Generation's bid to bury radioactive wastes right beside Lake Huron.

The Inverhuron Committee also sent their own letter to The Honourable Catherine McKenna asking her to delay the decision and to reject the project. See the end of the newsletter for the full text.

Thank you to all who wrote letters to their local member of parliament. It is important that our government representatives know about this issue. Even though the decision is delayed, we must keep up the pressure. Continue the conversation with your MP or your State and US representative.

The pressure is mounting in the United States. Below is an excerpt from a letter from U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow:

"Thank you for contacting me about the proposed nuclear waste storage facility in Ontario. Like you, I am absolutely opposed to Canada building a nuclear waste facility one mile from the shoreline of Lake Huron!

I have introduced the Stop Nuclear Waste by Our Lakes Act (S.2026). My bill directs the State Department to invoke the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and mandates that the International Joint Commission study the risks to the Great Lakes from the proposed Canadian repository on the shores of Lake Huron. My bill also requires the State Department to negotiate with the Government of Canada to wait for the study results before approving any waste site located on the Great Lakes."

Protecting the Great Lakes is a shared responsibility between Canada and the United States, and this treaty provides a process to resolve disputes about our shared waters. As this bill moves through the legislative process, I will work with my colleagues to expeditiously approve this bill

into law."

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator
U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
The United States Senate * Washington, DC 20510
stabenow.senate.gov

Letter to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

November 23, 2015

The Honourable Catherine McKenna,
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change,
Environment Canada,
Minister's Office,
200 Sacre-Coeur Blvd., 2nd Floor,
Gatineau, QC, K1A 0H3

The Honourable Catherine McKenna:

- Re: Decision on Joint Review Panel recommendations with respect to Ontario Power Generation's proposed Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Nuclear Waste, Kincardine, Ontario.

Congratulations on being appointed the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. It is obvious from the results of the Federal Election that Canadians are looking for change and that the environment is a key issue to sustain our future.

As Minister of the Environment and Climate Change you will be expected in the near future, to approve the report of the Joint Review Panel on a proposal by Ontario Power Generation to construct a permanent underground dump for low and intermediate nuclear waste less than one kilometre from the shore of Lake Huron. We are writing to urge you to reject this report and Ontario Power Generation's project outright and enact legislation to ban permanent nuclear waste disposal within 100 kilometres of the Great Lakes Basin and its tributaries.

As Chair of The Inverhuron Committee, a federally incorporated not-for-profit citizens group representing citizens in the community nearest the proposed nuclear dump site, I am writing to request a meeting with you to review the complex amounts of information gathered on this file and to provide you with a perspective independent of the nuclear industry. We can demonstrate a disappointing level of objectivity in the public review process on behalf of regulatory officials. We can show that despite the lack of transparency in this process, opposition to this idea is mounting in Canada and the United States, with whom we share the largest body of fresh water in the world. 179 resolutions opposing this project have been passed by city councils, counties and associations across Canada and the United States representing more than 22 million citizens.

The primary concern is the safety of Lake Huron. Our Great Lakes are receiving more attention by Canadians and Americans, as they are an essential natural resource that must be protected. These lakes provide 40 million citizens with their drinking water and represent 21% of the world's fresh water

supply.

Despite years of attempts, every attempt in the world at burying nuclear waste has failed. The most recent, the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico, USA, which leaked in February 2014, has been closed.

Among other concerns are the following:

- The Municipality of Kincardine has agreed to host this project without a process of transparent consultation. They will also gain 36 million dollars for their municipal coffers from this project. No other site was explored by Ontario Power Generation - certainly outside the norm for a project of this size and impact.
- The proposed plan directly contradicts recommendations of the Seaborn Commission, a bi-partisan parliamentary committee commissioned by the Liberal Government in the mid 1990's to conduct an intense study into the issue of nuclear waste management.
- As well, in 1986, the United States was looking at a site in Vermont to bury nuclear waste. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joe Clark, and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney intervened and issued a statement asking that the United States honour Canada's request to exclude any sites within 40 kilometres of the Canadian border. This agreement has surely set a precedent.
- The Joint Review Panel in their report suggest that there may be other options to deal with low level waste in the near future.
- Long term management and abandonment of nuclear waste in a repository has not been addressed. How can we approve a plan that proposes abandonment when no protocols exist and no procedures are in place to rectify a plan that might go terribly wrong?

We ask you to study this project carefully, and take needed time before making such an historic decision. Many qualified persons have recommended re-packaging this material and maintaining current above-ground storage as new technologies in this field are rapidly evolving that might support better solutions down the road. Others believe that a project of this magnitude is not necessary financially if 80% of the waste is low-level waste, much of which is only radioactive for 60-100 years.

Our Committee is encouraged by Prime Minister Trudeau's comments that Canada's environmental priorities include: "Treat our freshwater as a precious resource that deserves protection and careful stewardship, including by working with other orders of government to protect Canada's freshwater." This is exactly why all opponents agree that permanent underground storage next to the Great Lakes is too risky, especially as Ontario Power Generation maintains that the 'status quo' option of above-ground storage will be safe for the foreseeable future!

We would be pleased to provide more information to you and we are ready to meet with you at your convenience to further discuss this project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Ms. Marti McFadzean,
Chair, The Inverhuron Committee

Thank you for your help.

The Inverhuron Committee Inc.

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

Jeanne Quayle, Member of the Working Group

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