

To: Natural Resources Canada
Re: Radioactive Waste Policy Review

We write to comment on some key issues of concern regarding Canada's current policies regarding nuclear waste management and planning for the future.

The planning regarding the long term implications of the toxicities of nuclear waste for human and environmental protection is grave. It requires the utmost in scrutiny, transparency, and independence from those interests whose financial gain could affect decision-making.

It is completely unacceptable that Canada's radioactive waste strategy is being placed in the hands of the nuclear industry, through NWMO (Nuclear Waste Management Organization), which is completely owned by the waste producing nuclear utilities in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Canada needs an independent agency, arms-length from government and industry, to oversee radioactive waste management and decommissioning.

With centuries into the future of potential impact, amidst changing climates, geophysical shifts, and unforeseen events of all sorts, policy must be directed to on going, perpetual care and monitoring of radioactive waste – it must not be abandoned as a fait accompli once a strategy is devised.

Transparency has been sadly lacking in virtually all matters relating to nuclear management in the past. Government and industry must become open and transparent in the management of radioactive waste and its transportation.

Indigenous peoples and other Canadians have a right to access information, to engage in decision-making, and to know the risks.

It is totally unacceptable that Canada considers importation of nuclear waste from other countries. The users must be responsible for dealing with their waste.

As clearly expressed by many experts in the field, plutonium cannot be extracted safely for generating further nuclear power without a significant risk of potential use in nuclear weapons manufacture. Allowing the reprocessing of nuclear fuel for plutonium extraction will undermine the global nuclear weapons non-proliferation regime.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

██████████, MD

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Surrey, BC

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