Media Release – For Immediate Release, February 5, 2011

(Contacts listed at bottom.)

**Decision Allowing Transport of Radioactive Waste on the Great Lakes Condemned**

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada—Beyond Nuclear, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes, the Mouvement Sortons le Québec du Nucléaire, and many affiliated groups, join together in condemning the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission’s (CNSC) decision to allow Bruce Power (BP) to ship 16 radioactive steam generations – amounting to 1,600 tons of radioactive waste – through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River halfway around the world to Sweden for so-called "recycling." The proposed shipment route includes Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, Lake Erie, the Welland Canal, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and the Atlantic Ocean.

This shipment contains more than 6 times – and arguably more than 50 times – the maximum amount of radioactivity allowed by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations. Because of this, the CNSC had to make a “Special Arrangement” exempting Bruce Power (BP) from those IAEA regulations.

Before the radioactive waste shipment can enter U.S. territorial waters on the Great Lakes, however, it must receive a permit from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). An environmental coalition has been calling for months for PHMSA to undertake a full Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act before any such permit is granted. Seven Great Lakes states U.S. Senators wrote PHMSA in October, expressing serious concerns about the risk of this radioactive waste shipment, as well as the risks of radioactive metal "recycling."

(continued)

“By bending the rules, the CNSC has demonstrated that they are champions of the nuclear industry rather than defenders of the public interest – for there is no public
benefit to be served by allowing these shipments,” said Dr. Gordon Edwards, President of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility.

“This is a dark day for communities around the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, and for the 40 million people whose drinking water is derived from these sources, for this shipment of radioactive waste is just the beginning – it will be followed by many other such shipments,” said Michael Keegan, Chair of the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes.

“Radioactive contamination of our lakes and rivers is inevitable if they are to be routinely subjected to the transport of radioactive debris from defunct nuclear reactors,” said Dr. Michel Duguay, Coordinator of the Mouvement sortons le Québec du nucléaire.

Mayors, aboriginal communities and NGOs will continue to oppose these shipments both nationally and internationally, and they will continue to bring this controversial issue to the attention of political decision makers at all levels of government.

“Politicians have to wake up and pass laws to protect the public and the environment from the deliberate dissemination of radioactive waste materials,” said Marc Chénier of the Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire.

During a 2006 Environmental Assessment, Bruce Power and the CNSC declared that the radioactive steam generators are “radioactive wastes” and therefore not able to be recycled for safety reasons, promising that they will be stored as waste on site at Ontario Power Generation’s (OPG) Western Waste Management Facility -- in a surface facility until 2043, and underground thereafter.

OPG, the owner of the Bruce reactors, is fully prepared to store all radioactive steam generators from all Ontario reactors in a special facility adjacent to the Bruce site, with plans for a “segmentation facility” to disassemble the radioactive hulks later on. This arrangement is laid out in a 2007 contractual document between OPG and Bruce Power.

But in October 2009 Bruce Power pressured OPG to transfer ownership of the steam generators to them so that they could save money on waste storage charges by using a Swedish company to disperse much of the radioactive metal into the world’s scrap metal supply – thereby contaminating an otherwise “clean” source of recycled material.

(continued)

“The practice of contaminating scrap metal supplies by mixing in radioactive waste materials has been condemned by many bodies, including the United Nations, the Steel Manufacturer’s Association, and the International Recycling Bureau,” said Kay Cumbow of the Michigan-based group, Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination.

"Bruce Power’s CEO, Duncan Hawthorn, has admitted publicly that there is no
emergency plan in place in the event this radioactive waste shipment sinks in the Great Lakes,” said Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear. “And the CNSC staff has admitted publicly that the welds sealing shut the plutonium-contaminated steam generators are only good to a depth of 800 feet, meaning there is zero safety margin in 800 foot deep Lake Ontario,” Kamps added.

A secretive radioactive steam generator shipment plied the waters of Lake Michigan in 2001, bound from Kewaunee nuclear power plant in northern Wisconsin to Memphis, Tennessee. As part of its Yucca Mountain national radioactive waste dump proposal, the U.S. Department of Energy planned to barge much more risky high-level radioactive wastes on Lake Michigan from Kewaunee and Point Beach nuclear power plant in Wisconsin to the Port of Milwaukee, as well as from Palisades nuclear power plant in Michigan to the Port of Muskegon. There, the containers would have been offloaded onto trains bound for Nevada. But President Obama cancelled the Yucca Mountain Project in 2010.

Contacts:

English: Gordon Edwards, Ph.D., CCNR President, (514) 489 2665 or (514) 839 7214
Mike Keegan, M.A., Chair, Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes, (734) 770 1441
Kay Cumbow, Citizens Against Chemical Contamination (CACC), (810) 346-4513
Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear, (240) 462-3216.

French/English: Michel Duguay, Ph.D., MSQN Coordinator, (418) 802 2740
Marc Chénier, B.Sc., RSN Board Member, (514) 527 2712.

--30--

Kevin Kamps
Radioactive Waste Watchdog
Beyond Nuclear
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 400
Takoma Park, Maryland 20912
Office: (301) 270-2209 ext. 1
Cell: (240) 462-3216
Fax: (301) 270-4000
kevin@beyondnuclear.org
www.beyondnuclear.org

Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.