News from Beyond Nuclear
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Beyond Nuclear Supports Decision to Further Review Risks of Dumping Radioactive Waste on Great Lakes Shore

Group Renews Call to Canadian Environment Minister to “Nip the DUD in the Bud!”

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and Washington, D.C., U.S.A.—At 4:46 PM Eastern time, Friday, November 27, 2015, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) issued the following statement:

“Today, the Governor in Council, on request of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, has extended the timeline to issue a decision on the Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project by 90 days to March 1, 2016.

The project is a proposal by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to prepare, construct and operate a deep geologic disposal facility on the Bruce Nuclear Site within the municipality of Kincardine, ON. The DGR would be designed to manage low and intermediate waste produced from the continued operation of OPG-owned nuclear generations at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington, ON.

Read the announcement: Source CEAA [Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency]

The announcement comes after a bipartisan delegation of 32 U.S. Senators and Representatives sent a letter on November 5, 2015 to the newly elected Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, urging him to cancel the proposed Great Lakes shore radioactive waste dump. At the very least, the Members of Congress urged Prime Minister Trudeau to postpone the final decision about proceeding with the DGR, scheduled for December 2, 2015, until after the U.S. congressional delegation had an opportunity to meet with him in person to discuss their concerns and objections.

“We are deeply thankful to all the U.S. Congress Members who urged the decision be postponed, and the Honorable Catherine McKenna, the newly appointed Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, for postponing the decision 90 days,” said Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear.

Beyond Nuclear is based in Takoma Park, Maryland, and has opposed the DGR from the start, helping lead the U.S. grassroots resistance to the proposal.
“We urge the delegation of 32 U.S. Senators and Representatives to follow through with securing a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau and Environment Minister McKenna, to communicate the concerns and objections of tens of millions of U.S. citizens regarding the risks the DGR would inflict on the Great Lakes,” Kamps said.

“We are confident that once Environment Minister McKenna reviews the 13 years of resistance to the DUD, she can do nothing other than reject OPG's proposal as unacceptably risky to the drinking water supply for 40 million people,” Kamps added.

**DUD**, short for Deep Underground Dump, is an alternative acronym for the DGR that sums up many critics’ regard for the proposal.

In a [November 18, 2015 letter](#) to Environment Minister McKenna, a coalition of 65 U.S. and Canadian environmental groups, including Beyond Nuclear, also mentioned the option of extending the December 2, 2015 decision deadline. But their overriding call was for Minister McKenna to reject the DGR proposal outright, as it is: plagued by uncertainties; unacceptably risky; unnecessary for the management of the radioactive wastes; and unaffordable from a cost-benefit perspective.

The coalition began its letter to Environment Minister McKenna “We are encouraged by your appointment and by the emphasis the Prime Minister placed in your Mandate letter on regaining public trust in the environmental assessment process, and on ensuring that decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and serve the public’s interest. These are matters of great concern to the millions who have considered and rejected a scheme by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to bury nuclear waste beside Lake Huron.”

The coalition listed the growing opposition, including 182 resolutions passed by municipalities in the U.S. and Canada -- including Chicago, Wayne County and five communities in metro Detroit, and Toronto -- with a combined population of nearly 23 million people. In addition, the National Association of Counties, representing 3,069 counties across the U.S. where 255 million people reside, recently passed a resolution opposing the DGR, as has the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus (comprised of lawmakers in eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces). [The organization Stop the Great Lakes Nuclear Dump has more information about the growing number of resolutions posted on its website.](#)

In addition, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has long been critical of the DGR.

“We also applaud the bipartisan [Stop Nuclear Waste by Our Lakes Act of 2015](#), led by the likes of U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Mark Kirk (R-IL), as well as U.S. Representatives Dan Kildee (D-MI) and Candice Miller (R-MI),” Kamps said.
“We urge President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry to activate the U.S.-Canadian International Joint Commission (IJC), to undertake a comprehensive review about the risks posed by the DUD to the Great Lakes,” Kamps added.

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