

Montreal, February 14, 2011.

An appeal to Members of Parliament

***Re: the lack of a policy on radioactive wastes from nuclear reactors
(excluding irradiated nuclear fuel)***

Dear Member of Parliament:

In the interests of good governance, we are asking you to take action now to prevent the possibility of several dangerous precedents about radioactive wastes becoming established in a policy vacuum.

We are writing in reference to Bruce Power's current plan to ship 16 radioactive steam generators through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway and across the Atlantic Ocean to Sweden.

The purpose of this shipment is to reduce the volume of Bruce Power's radioactive waste by shipping it to a facility in Sweden that will melt the contaminated metal, mix it with non-contaminated metal and sell the scrap for unrestricted use in commercial products.

The most radioactive portions of the steam generators – about 450 tonnes of the original 1600 tonnes – will be shipped back to Halifax and then trucked back to Bruce Power for permanent storage as radioactive waste.

If this shipment goes ahead, it will establish three precedents, each having far-reaching political implications:

PRECEDENT ONE: It will be the first time that Canada has exported or imported radioactive wastes from a refurbished (or decommissioned) nuclear reactor.

PRECEDENT TWO: It will also be the first time radioactive wastes from nuclear reactors have been shipped through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.

PRECEDENT THREE: It will be the first time that radioactive waste materials from Canadian reactors have been introduced into the world's scrap metal markets.

In addition, the proposed shipment would contradict explicit assurances given during a 2005-2007 Environmental Assessment in which Bruce Power and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff declared that the steam generators are radioactive wastes, which cannot be recycled "for safety and environmental reasons." The steam generators were to be sent to the Western Waste Management Facility for storage in perpetuity.

The proposed shipment has raised a great deal of public concern. More than 200 municipalities along the transport route – including 120 in Quebec – oppose the shipment. First Nations and other aboriginal communities have identified the lack of consultation in this matter as a breach of the government's duty to consult. Dozens of NGOs from North America and abroad have stated their opposition to the plan.

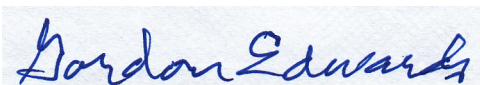
The CNSC, originally intending to have one of their staff members issue a license without any form of public consultation at all, responded to this outpouring of concern by agreeing to set aside two days to hear the views of 80 interveners. Moreover, in a ruling rare for this body, the CNSC extended the comment period for an additional 30 days. On February 4, however, they granted a licence for the transport of the steam generators.

But we believe this matter is far more than a mere licensing question – *it is an important policy issue*. The Parliament and the Government of Canada need to formulate a policy framework to address the challenges associated with the disposition of all radioactive wastes from nuclear reactors other than irradiated nuclear fuel (for which a policy framework does exist).

Such a policy framework would address the following questions: What should Canada's policy be with regard to the export/import of these wastes? Should Canada allow the transport of such wastes through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River? Should Canada condone the dispersal of radioactive wastes into scrap used to manufacture consumer products? And should Bruce Power or any proponent be allowed to promise one course of action during an environmental assessment and then do the opposite after the assessment has been completed?

Today we are asking you to sign a resolution [attached] calling on the Minister of Natural Resources to ensure that Bruce Power is not permitted to transport the steam generators until such time as Parliament and the Government of Canada have established a policy framework that addresses these larger issues raised by the proposed shipment. There is no urgency for Bruce Power to ship the steam generators; they planned to store them on the surface until 2043, and then underground thereafter.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.



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