

RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR WASTES

To: The Honourable M. Christian Paradis, Minister of Natural Resources.
From: The undersigned Members of the House of Commons and the Senate.

GIVEN that Canada has no declared policy regarding the export or import of radioactive wastes from decommissioned or refurbished nuclear reactors to or from any other country;

GIVEN that Canada has no declared policy regarding the transportation of reactor wastes through the Great Lakes or the St. Lawrence Seaway;

GIVEN that Canada has no declared policy regarding the radioactive contamination of the world's scrap metal supply caused by the deliberate or inadvertent admixture of radioactive waste materials;

GIVEN that Bruce Power has applied for a license from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to transport 16 radioactive steam generators through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway and across the Atlantic to Sweden, for the purpose of having most of the contaminated metal melted, then blended with non-radioactive metals and sold on the open market as scrap intended for unrestricted use;

GIVEN that the proposed shipment to Sweden would exceed the international limit for the maximum amount of radioactive material normally allowed in any single shipment;

GIVEN that the mayors and town councils of over 100 cities bordering the Great Lakes and the St- Lawrence River have expressed grave concerns about the proposed shipment;

GIVEN that many First Nations and other aboriginal communities have expressed displeasure at not being consulted or even notified about the proposed shipment;

GIVEN that dozens of Non-Governmental Organizations from Canada, the USA and overseas have also expressed strong opposition to the shipment;

GIVEN that Bruce Power has previously committed itself to an alternative plan to store the steam generators on site – on the surface until 2043, and underground thereafter – and that this plan has already received prior approval from the CNSC;

GIVEN that Bruce Power and the CNSC staff have stated in the past that the old steam generators cannot be recycled because of their radioactive contamination;

THEREFORE the undersigned Members of the House of Commons and the Senate urge that no approval be given for the shipment of the steam generators until a proper policy framework has been formulated and debated by representative government bodies on the aspects of export-import, transport, and “recycling” of radioactive wastes from decommissioned or refurbished nuclear reactors.

*Please send a copy of your endorsement of this resolution to ccnr@web.ca .
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