

Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development regarding Nuclear Waste Governance in Canada

Introduction

Protect our Waterways-No Nuclear Waste South Bruce (POW-NNW) is a group of concerned citizens residing in South Bruce who are opposed to our community becoming the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) site for storing all of Canada's nuclear spent fuel waste. The group was formed in February 2020 after a surprise announcement by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) regarding their acquisition of 1300 acres of farmland just 2 kms from the town of Teeswater, in the municipality of South Bruce.

South Bruce is a community of approximately 5600 residents. It is a depressed community with little or no growth in population and economic development in the last decade, empty store fronts are a fixture on main streets, and a Council who are desperate to find some project that will deliver economic growth at any cost.

The site is approximately 30 Km from Lake Huron and Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) chosen location is within the Great Lakes Basin. POW-NNW's concern and focus are as follows;

- Protection of our drinking water and all of those who use the Great Lakes for the source of their drinking water
- that all of the residents of South Bruce have the opportunity to voice their opinion by means of a referendum on whether South Bruce should become a willing host community for all of Canada's nuclear spent fuel
- be truly informed about the risks associated with burying in the ground this highly dangerous radioactive material in an experimental concept called a Deep Geological Repository (DGR)
- be fully cognizant of the social impact of a project that will significantly change the life style of the existing agricultural community to one of a mining community.

The Major Concerns the POW-NNW are as follows;

- that the NWMO's 9 step process is not community driven and has one objective only and that is to secure a location for burying all of Canada's nuclear spent fuel and then abandoning the location over time.
- the process of providing funds to the municipality by the proponent of the project (NWMO) to hire dedicated municipal employees in support of the project and to provide funds to the municipality labelled good/well being projects for the municipality.
- NWMO engagement activities lack transparency, social impact and open communications

Addressing the NWMO 9 step Process and their approach to secure a willing host community

-The Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO's) 9 Step process is not community driven. It is NWMO driven, with the sole objective of successfully developing, managing, and operating the world's first high-level radioactive waste deep geological repository (DGR). The NWMO's process has not been created to earn the social license of the community to approve this project. The process has been created and implemented to manage community opinion such that a very small group of decisionmakers, such as a majority of the Council of the Municipality of South Bruce or Ignace, will vote to approve, despite community objections.

NWMO acts in a manner that is arrogant, not open and not caring for the well being of the existing residents of the community.

They focus on winning the support of the local Council members by the lure of economic gain for the community and funding of personnel within the municipality to support their cause. The NWMO 9 step process requires the municipality to follow the establishment of local committees such as the Community Liaison Committee, create

workshop in partnership with the municipality staff, establish a visionary workshop and a time line for the project. All for the single purpose of establishing control of the events leading to the successful adoption of their agenda.

The events sponsored by NWMO in 2020 had very low attendance when considered the population of South Bruce is just over 5600. The events included the South Bruce Visionary Workshop, Environmental Workshops # 1 and #2, Open Houses in Teeswater, Mildmay, and Formosa as well as the NWMO Mobile Learning Units and the Youth program. The attendance numbers were confirmed by Mary Devine from NWMO.

The consultant company leading the activities for the Visionary Workshop, which established the 36 guiding principles to determine if the project was right for South Bruce, was Aecom who were hired by the NWMO. These workshops occurred on different dates and locations throughout the municipality. Although it states in the Aecom report that the workshops were well attended the total attendance was only 144 people and some of those counted were South Bruce Community Liaison Members (CLC) (19), Municipality staff (10) and Youth (from grade 7 to post -secondary-21). Included in the total number is that a few of the leadership team (Community Liaison Committee, the Mayor, and members of the Council) attended more than one workshop. See page 6 for the attendance report on the South Bruce Project Visionary Report. The link to the report is: <https://www.town.southbruce.on.ca/content/news-updates/final-project-visioning-report.pdf>

The take away from the level of attendance at these various events is that a meaningful partnership with the residents did not happen. However, whenever we attend an NWMO or South Bruce hosted activity or send a letter /email to either of these parties the standard answer coming back is “we thank you for your continued interest in the APM project “. We realize at this moment we are just being treated as a person or group in support of the project and a number on the record of how many people attended this event. The message being promoted by the NWMO is, isn't it great regarding the number of residents who are showing interest in the project? The other concern with all of these events was they were not driven by the community but rather by the NWMO and the consultants hired by the NWMO, who actively participated in the major meetings and produced the reports and the summary of the conclusions from the meetings.

The South Bruce Council and the staff hired within the municipality and the NWMO are using these 36 guiding principles as the only measure in deciding whether the community is a willing host for the DGR project. All other input is ignored and put on a shelf never to be considered.

Meanwhile POW-NNW has succeeded in creating 2 petitions, one presented to the South Bruce Council in June 2020 with 1500 signatures of the eligible voters in South Bruce opposing the DGR and with over 15000 online signatures from across Canada, supporting this petition, because this is not only a local issue but one concerning the Great Lakes Basin. The second petition presented to Council in Jan and Feb 2021 had over 1700 voters of South Bruce requesting a referendum to be schedule with the municipal election in Oct 2022 on the question whether South Bruce is a willing host for the NWMO project. Both of these petitions have been ignored by the NWMO and the South Bruce Council even though they represented more than 30 % of the voters in South Bruce and were 10 to 15 times the number of residents participating in any of the Visionary workshop or other activities sponsored by the NWMO and South Bruce administration.

NWMO ACTIVITIES LACK TRANSPARENCY, SOCIAL IMPACT, AND OPEN COMMUNICATIONS

I am Michelle Stein and a resident of the municipality of South Bruce. In January 2020 I attended a Visionary Workshop which I had mistakenly believed was to be an information meeting about the proposed DGR. We were quickly informed that the real purpose of this dream was about how to spend the money that would flow into our community if the project happened. My concerns and experiences are contained in the following paragraphs.

The NWMO and the South Bruce municipality claim that the feedback they collected from these workshops is the basis for the 36 guiding principles. This workshop only asked for ways to spend money and no time was spent discussing concerns or answering questions. When the draft report was released all of the comments sent in pointing out the flaws and inaccuracies were completely ignored.

During the workshop the NWMO representative, Paul Austin, outright lied about the accident that occurred in 2015 at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico. He claimed that this accident was an example of why the waste needs to be stored below ground because the accident did not result in any radiation escaping above ground. Erik Kramer, an NWMO scientist, also repeated this falsehood at the March 2020 CLC meeting. However, official US Government accident reports prove this not to be true as workers above ground were exposed to radiation. Such omission of the actual facts about the incident made the group suspicious of what other information is the NWMO not telling us?

Is the NWMO only sharing information that they feel will make us comfortable about the risks of the DGR project?

WIPP - March 7, 2014 Toronto Star

https://www.thestar.com/business/2014/03/07/us_radiation_leak_raises_ontario_questions.html

WIPP - March 25, 2014 Toronto Star

https://www.thestar.com/business/2014/03/25/nuclear_waste_panel_wants_more_answers.html

WIPP - Sept 9, 2014 Toronto Star

https://www.thestar.com/business/2014/09/09/opg_works_to_calm_concerns_over_nuclear_waste_dump.html

At the Jan 2020 Visionary Workshop, I asked where the proposed site for the DGR might be and was told that at the time there was no specific area. The next day it was announced in the public media that NWMO owned the property directly east of my farm and optioned the property directly west of my farm. Did the NWMO representatives at this meeting not know that the NWMO was secretly purchasing/optioning properties without informing the property owners bordering on the proposed site?

Is such action open and transparent?

<https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/south-bruce-sees-bright-side-of-hosting-canadas-nuclear-waste>

In the week of Feb 21st 2022 residents living within a 5 KM of the proposed DGR site received a letter from the NWMO informing us about their Property Value Protection program. The NWMO's claim was that this was their answer to one of the 36 guiding principles developed in the Visionary Workshops.

According to the program, NWMO only valued the property and buildings and did not take into account the potential impact to existing business operations or the social impact of such a noisy, disturbing, life changing experience particularly for those adjacent to the proposed site would experience. The plan is to offer market value for properties within the 5 Km area.

For the initial purchased or optioned of land by the NWMO in 2019 and 2020, landowners who agree to sell or option their properties were guaranteed market value plus a premium of 25%. The bottom line is that landowners interested in selling are offered premiums but those of us being greatly impacted by the existence of a DGR are potentially forced to move because of the impact to our business operation resulting from the stigma of NWMO's radioactive experiment and to our health because of the potential for radioactive exposure. We receive only receive market value for our property.

https://www.nwmo.ca/~media/Site/Files/PDFs/2022/02/15/20/58/Property-Value-Protection-Program_Feb15.ashx?la=en

We raise beef cattle, lambs for meat and milk sheep. We have already had buyers from Toronto tell us they will not purchase our lamb for their butcher shops if it is being raised next to a DGR for nuclear spent fuel waste. See letter below from one of our main purchasers of our products

Hello Michelle,

It has been brought to my attention that there will be a nuclear waste dump near your property. After receiving this news I conducted a small personal face to face survey with my customers asking them how they feel about this situation.

Considering the way customers feel about knowing where the meat they consume comes from, and knowing very well that we purchase lambs from you guys, there was an overwhelming negative response to having a dump right next to where we

purchase our lambs.

This dump would not only affect the meat and milk you produce, but also harm the fragile meat industry we are seeing. With people already more willing to try going vegan this would have a massive effect on both sides of our trades.

My store is located in an area where there are a lot of young families that are getting well educated about the raising of their food. And this does not sit well with them.

Furthermore, I also DO NOT want a nuclear dump next to where I purchase my lambs!!!! This is really bad for our health and overall business.

I truly hope that this email will get to the right people in charge, and it may help persuade them into doing the right thing. Which is to not put a dump next to agriculture!

Thank you,

George [REDACTED]

We have had discussions with our milk processor and at this time they can't guarantee that they would continue to purchase our milk if the project happens. The loss of markets due to nuclear stigma is a very real concern.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/10/we-always-get-a-fukushima-strives-to-prove-local-food-safe-before-tokyo-games>

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/japan-seeks-support-fukushima-nuclear-water-release-79613764>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/canada-nuclear-waste-dairy-1.5474139>

The NWMO is so focused on finding a site to bury the nuclear industry's radioactive spent fuel waste that they have ignored the social impact and that we are real people, with real lives, with real family histories and real hopes and dreams for the future. For the past two years, our family and many other community members have been held hostage, not knowing what our future will be. How can people make decisions when the NWMO hasn't provided a definition for "willingness" nor a firm deadline for a site selection? Shame on them for being willing to destroy people's lives to accomplish the goal of manufacturing a willing community.

Risks associated with the NWMO's Adaptive Phase Management project

In a letter dated 09/24/2020 to the editor to our local newspapers, Dr Ben Belfadhel, former NWMO Vice President of site selection, makes several derogatory comments about Protect Our Waterways-No Nuclear Waste (POW-NNW). See *attachment #1*

Our team has spent hundreds of hours reading numerous NWMO reports and listening to more than 70 + pro DGR presenters at the South Bruce Community Liaison Committee and we are a very informed group. We have also organized a number of webinars with experts who have opinions that are not supportive of the DGR project. Despite our intense involvement with the NWMO proposal, we were labelled in his letter as the 'Not Willing to Listen group'. His statement that our campaign amounts to fearmongering is clearly disrespectful. Belfadhel comments position our opposition to the DGR as a nuisance, uninformed, and not worthy of serious consideration. At no time then or in recent times has the NWMO identified the misinformation that had been provided by POW-NNW. We find this type of engagement disrespectful and can only assume our challenge of the information being published by the NWMO was his reason for this action. Some of the misleading information by the NWMO is listed below.

-NWMO MYTH: We need a DGR to remove the risk from the lakeshore FACT: A DGR doesn't solve the problem of nuclear waste on the lakeshore. All nuclear waste must stay above ground for at least 30 years before its heat generating capability caused by the a chain reaction within the spent fuel is cool enough to be placed underground. A DGR only moves some of the waste, placing more communities at risk and it gives them room so they can produce more waste.

-NWMO MYTH: A DGR is the internationally accepted best practice. FACT: There are no DGR's for high level waste operating anywhere in the world. If this is the accepted practice how come scientists around the world have so many different ideas on how it should be done? How come there are very different designs for containers? Some have 5cm of copper but in 2016 the NWMO changed their copper cladding from 5cm to only 3mm? How can we be sure they got it right this time?

All other Country proposals have ramps for lower the fuel to the caverns but Canada plans to use an elevator shaft to get everything into the repository. Wouldn't there be less risk with a ramp? In 2011 an independent technical review group hired by the NWMO questioned why they were planning an elevator rather than a ramp. After that report the NWMO selected a new peer review group so it appears that if you don't agree with their position your voice should not be heard. Interesting to note, that at one time the "internationally accepted best practice" was to store nuclear waste in salt mines. Germany is dealing with that radioactive mistake.

NWMO MYTH: Several other countries have DGRs. FACT: The flyer that was sent to all residents last June stated that there are 4 operating DGR's around the world but according to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) the only DGR in the world is the WIPP in New Mexico. A DGR for low/intermediate level waste in the middle of the desert. The only thing we can learn from that DGR is that you can't predict human error, mistakes happen and radioactive accidents are very expensive to clean up.

NWMO MYTH: The DGR will be safe because it is modelled after nature, Cigar Lake FACT: NWMO scientist Derek Wilson was asked at the August 2020 CLC meeting to compare the danger between the natural uranium at Cigar Lake and the used fuel bundles. He stated that the natural uranium was the same level of radioactive danger as the fuel bundles before they are put into the reactor and what the fuel bundles become again after 1 million years. Nuclear waste is a very different level of danger with over 200 radioactive elements created by the reactor process.

NWMO MYTH: Water won't get into the repository. FACT: The NWMO's own 2003 technical reports state that the repository will become saturated with groundwater and the containers will corrode. Their 2016 environmental report talks about the groundwater being pumped to the surface during construction and operations but they don't share any details on how the water from the mine settling ponds will be processed and discharged. They also don't address the concerns about what happens when the pumps stop after decommissioning.

What we have learned from our review and study of the DGR concept is that there are many unknowns and assumptions about the concept of a DGR and many different worldwide designs in the development of a DGR. The nuclear industry in Canada likes to point to all the other countries that have been exploring the ideas of deep geological repositories for decades, as if this is evidence of success. In fact, it would be more accurately viewed as evidence of failure. After more than forty years of study and massive amounts of spending in a number of countries there is no operating deep geological repository for nuclear fuel waste anywhere in the world. There is no success story. However, there are examples of failure. Also after reading the 338 page report called an "Environmental Impact Statement" issued March 2011 from the SKB team, an organization in Sweden with the same mandate as the NWMO, we can conclude that the only thing that is common in the implementations of a DGR between the 2 plans is burying the highly toxic radioactive spent fuel in a hole about 500 to 700 meters in the ground and abandoning it sometime in the future.

Protection of Our Drinking Water

Teeswater is a small rural town in Southwestern Ontario. It sits only 30 km west of Lake Huron, one of the Great Lakes that supplies drinking water to millions of people. The Teeswater River winds its way through the farmlands and the Greenock Swamp, one of the largest natural filtration systems, until it finally joins with the Saugeen River which eventually empties into Lake Huron.

The Teeswater River is known for fishing, particularly Smallmouth Bass and our neighbouring township promotes the river on its tourism sites. "Walkerton & Area is making a name for itself as one of the greatest fishing destination in the world! Home to both the Saugeen and Teeswater Rivers, Brockton offers first-class fly fishing, and anglers will find the feeder streams and spring-fed lakes offer an abundance of brown trout, bass, and pike." <https://visitwalkerton.com/things-to-do/fishing/>

Kayaking and canoeing are also activities that people enjoy on the Teeswater River. How will access to the river continue for recreational pleasure? How will animals access the river? These are important aspects of life in and around South Bruce.

How is it that the NWMO feel that they can safely bury high-level nuclear waste in a deep geological repository (dgr) with the Teeswater River meandering through the property? The second borehole drill site is situated near the flood plains of the river. How can the NWMO feel that there is no threat to the immediate ecosystem of the Teeswater River, or to Lake Huron, the source of drinking water for millions of Canadians and Americans? When speaking with Ben Belfadhel, VP of Site Selection with NWMO, in 2020, he stated that the dgr would not be located near water. The proposed site is certainly a contradiction to that statement. What changed? Was it science or the fact that the NWMO had acquired enough land in South Bruce?

Our American neighbours are concerned about the dgr project. Congressman Dan Kildee introduced a resolution to Congress to prevent the storage of nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin. “Congressman Kildee’s resolution asks President Biden and his administration to work with the Canadian government to ensure nuclear waste is not permanently stored in the Great Lakes Basin.” “Permanently storing nuclear waste in the Great Lakes does not make any sense,” Congressman Kildee said. “The Great Lakes are central to our way of life, and permanently storing nuclear waste so close to our shared waterways puts our economies and millions of jobs at risk in the fishing, boating and tourism industries. People in both in the U.S. and Canada depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, which could be contaminated if there ever was a nuclear waste incident.”

<https://dankildee.house.gov/media/press-releases/kildee-introduces-bipartisan-resolution-opposing-proposed-canadian-permanent>

<https://dankildee.house.gov/media/press-releases/statement-reps-kildee-levin-meijer-meeting-between-president-biden-and-canadian?fbclid=IwAR1w-ooaNuYJNCgZ98UdSoZCG8w65bJiSPUeVzOYCCa0VncKH1I2JQiOXOU>

This is an untested experiment. The NWMO cannot predict the safety of this water system situated so closely to the proposed Deep Geological Repository. The NWMO cannot fully predict the validity of the computer generated science. The NWMO cannot guarantee that ground water, drinking water and aquatic ecosystems will be unaffected.

The NWMO’s Adaptive Phase Management Plan has future plans to monitor and maintain safe levels of radionuclides entering the ecosystems, which clearly shows that they expect there will be radionuclides showing up where previously there was none. What is a safe level? Does that level not depend upon what living plant, animal or aquatic species it is affecting? Once the water is contaminated, there is no known solution for decontaminating the wide-spread ecosystem that starts with the Teeswater River, flowing through a proposed deep geological repository for high level nuclear waste.

Why is the NWMO providing monies to the communities involved in the site selection process?

In total, the NWMO has funded the Municipality of South Bruce over 9.5 million dollars. Funding for the NWMO project started in 2012 and was intended to be used to facilitate the learning process and education of the residents of South Bruce. In August 2021, 3 newly-hired dedicated staff members within South Bruce were hired to manage and promote the NWMO project. In addition to the increase of spending on the project within the municipality, NWMO created a new program called the Near Term investment and allocated \$4 M to be spent by the municipality on projects that would benefit the living experience within South Bruce over the period 2021 to 2022. One such project is the creation of a recreational facility in Formosa. Other projects are listed below.

NWMO claim that there is no obligation for South Bruce towards becoming a willing host community associated with any of these funding programs. However, we believe that the NWMO's hope is that by providing these funds, it will buy them some goodwill in the future and perhaps help them to succeed in achieving their agenda of finding a willing host community for the nuclear spent fuel. In our opinion, there is no free money. These funds are being used to create a dependency upon the NWMO.. Any expenditure of these funds must meet the approval of the NWMO.

Who has received funding etc. (not a complete list)

Saugeen Valley Well upgrade <https://www.svca.on.ca/newsfull.php?NewsID=304>

Svca well upgrade

<https://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2020/11/24/svca-receives-generous-donations-nwmo/>

Crop and soil

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2018/08/23/09/58/Ontario-Soil-and-Crop-delegates-get-a-taste-of-Bruce-County-hospitality>

Great Lakes

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/11/19/16/26/The-NWMO-supporting-coastal-and-environmental-science-along-the-shores-of-Lake-Huron>

Formosa Playground

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/08/31/17/40/The-NWMO-helps-break-ground-for-a-new-playground-in-Formosa>

Mildmay Playground

<https://www.town.southbruce.on.ca/news/2020/08/mildmay-carrick-optimist-club-receives-support-from-community-we>

Belmore arena lights

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2019/06/27/15/04/Belmore-Community-Centre-Celebrates-Hall-Updates>

Food Banks

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/12/18/14/28/The-NWMO-invests-nearly-to-address-food-insecurity-in-Ontario>

Wes for Youth

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/08/26/14/56/The-NWMO-supports-WES-for-Youth-Onlines-annual-Youth-Online-Golf-Classic>

Bats

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/08/12/20/39/Bat-research-begins-in-the-South-Bruce-area-using-acoustic-monitoring>

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/03/03/18/53/Toronto-Zoo-and-the-Nuclear-Waste-Management-Organization-partner>

Science Fair <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2019/03/15/21/06/Bluewater-Regional-Science-and-Technology-Fair-Kicks-Off-April-3rd>

Binoculars for students <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2019/03/15/20/35/GENESIS-Program-Fosters-Environmental-Awareness-With-Local-Youth>

Pony Club <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/07/17/19/49/The-NWMO-donates-to-local-saddle-club-helping-youth-stay-engaged>

Virtual Summer Camp <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/07/08/13/51/Best-Ever-Virtual%20%80%AFSummer-Camp-Sponsored-by-NWMO>

Pine River 4H Watershed <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/06/01/16/13/Pine-River-Watershed-Initiative-Network-continues-with-stewardship-activities>

Student Bursaries <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/03/17/17/54/South-Bruce-students-receive-bursaries-to-pursue-education>

Launch Pad <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/02/06/01/25/NWMO-and-Launch-Pad-partner-to-expand-opportunities-for-Huron-Kinloss--South-Bruce-youth>

Funding Firefighting training <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2018/05/22/12/36/NWMO-Supports-Safe-Communities-through-Bruce-County-Fire-School>

Breathing Apparatus Donation to Firehalls <https://www.town.southbruce.on.ca/news/2021/01/south-bruce-fire-rescue-mildmay-carrick-firefighters-receive-new>

3D Printer to Bruce County Library <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2020/11/19/16/10/The-NWMO-Donates-3D-Printer-to-the-Bruce-County-Public-Library>

Mental health training workshop <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2019/01/09/20/20/South-Bruce-and-NWMO-partner-to-provide-Mental-Health-First-Aid-Training>

Sponsor Coastal Water Management (they fund and sponsor pretty much all surrounding area water protection events and organizations) <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2019/01/04/14/27/LHCCC-Municipal-Forum>

Sponsored curling bonspiel <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2018/02/20/11/14/The-NWMO-Engages-Citizens-at-the-Mildmay-Agri-Spiel>

Softball Team <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/More-information/News-and-Activities/2017/08/21/09/43/Belmore-Sting-Are-U16-Canadian-Fastball-Champions>

Teeswater Town Hall <https://www.southbruce.ca/en/news/renovations-to-teeswater-town-hall-completed-with-support-from-community-well-being-funding.aspx>

Bruce County Book Mobile <https://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/2022/02/20/bruce-county-library-receives-50k-donation-for-bookmobile/>

August 10, 2021 – 4 million dollars announced as a Near-Term Investment Fund
<https://southbruce.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/1439?preview=1559>

CBC NWMO funding to small towns. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/nuclear-waste-disposal-site-teeswater-south-bruce-1.6013827>

The National – Goodwill Funding <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DXBcKE-Xzg>

Referendum requests from the residents of South Bruce

POW -NNW has made several requests over the last 2 years that the residents of South Bruce get an opportunity to have a voice by means of a binding referendum on the decision of becoming a willing host community for all of Canada's nuclear spent fuel waste. We submitted this request at the June 9th 2020 South Bruce Council meeting with a petition having over 1500 residents opposing a DGR and again at the Jan 9th and Feb 8th 2022 when 1700 residents demanded that a referendum be held coincident with the municipal elections in Oct 2022 on the project. These requests have been ignored by the NWMO and the South Bruce council as no action has been taken to fulfill the requests of the residents.

This despite statements made by our current Mayor Buckle in a London Free Press dated April 15th 2016. His comments are; "If two years from now, if I re-run for mayor and if I get in, I will insist that we have a referendum. Something as important as this I'm not going to let six people (on council) make that decision."

Mayor Buckle did run for Mayor and was elected with 1380 votes in the 2018 election but has never delivered on his promised nor was it a subject of any debate in the 2018 election residents

<https://lfpres.com/2016/04/15/decades-of-highly-radioactive-spent-fuel-is-piling-up-at-ontarios-nuclear-plants>

Recommendations:

1. Nuclear waste governance must not be entrusted to the nuclear industry or any of the companies funded by the nuclear industry such as the NWMO. The Seaborn Commission was crystal clear in their recommendation that the Federal Government should establish an independent body from the nuclear industry to manage the issue of nuclear waste. This request is now more urgent than when the Seaborn commission recommendation was made.
2. A comprehensive review needs to be undertaken whether the current governing bodies, namely the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Department of Natural Resources (NRCan) have become too tied to the agenda of the Nuclear Industry and are no longer meeting their roles in protecting the needs and interest of the citizens of Canada.
3. For projects such as NWMO's Adaptive Phase Management, residents of targeted communities must have a vote on whether they are interested in being part of this project at the outset and not wait 12 years down the road to make a decision. The proponents of such projects must be concise in the definition of the project regarding the benefits and the risks of the project. Delay tactics such as being employed by the NWMO nine step process should not be permitted.
4. Proponents of a proposal should not be permitted to provide funds at any time during the life of the project to communities, and in the case of South Bruce, more than \$9.5 M, in attempt to win favor for their project and influence the outcome.
5. Nuclear spent fuel waste should remain at the current Nuclear generating sites until there is operating experience in Finland or any other country that provide absolute proof that the concept/experiment of a DGR is safe for 1000's of years .

Attachment:

#1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thursday, September 24, 2020 - Wingham Advance Times - Page 5

Open letter from NWMO

The following is an open letter to the community from Dr. Ben Belfadhel, vice-president site selection, Nuclear Waste Management Organization.

Dear neighbour,

I am writing today to address misinformation that has begun circulating in South Bruce and area about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). A recent flyer shared throughout the region is based on fear, not facts. As a scientist with nearly 25 years of experience in the safe management of radioactive material, my goal today is to correct the record.

My chosen field is both rewarding and challenging. I understand that the long-term management of used nuclear fuel is controversial, with passionate views held by many. Any large-scale environmental infrastructure project garners intense reaction in local communities. Doubly so when the project is as unique and generational as the plans to build a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel.

That's why the NWMO has, from its very outset, sought to create a dialogue. We work to involve communities in every step of our work. We want to ensure they are engaged in the process and they have all the necessary facts. Because the hard truth is, we need a long-term solution. Interim storage was never designed to last for thousands of years. But a deep geological repository is.

We owe it to future generations to implement a long-term sustainable solution. We have the answer. We know how to do it safely. Now, as a generation that has reaped decades of benefits from nuclear power, it is on us to act so our children and grandchildren don't have to.

At the NWMO, we are implementing site selection process that is designed to be fair and inclusive. We respect and welcome a diversity of views. We also value open discussions and challenges to the scientific basis of our project. We consider questions and challenges to be important to the integrity of our work. However, the

description presented by the "Not Willing to Listen" group on the potential impact to Lake Huron is concerning as it is simply inaccurate and misleading. It is not based on any evidence or any of the well-established hydrogeological models.

Let me be clear: this campaign amounts to fear-mongering. We welcome debate, but not misinformation.

As a scientist, I've spent my life looking at issues from all sides. It's what we do every day at the NWMO. It's why our technical reports consider every possible factor or variable, right down to possible ice ages centuries from now. But to cherry pick facts, or quite simply make them up, is divisive and does a disservice to the discourse. It runs contrary to the very foundations of the scientific method. And it's unfair to the many people we hear from each day who are genuinely trying to learn about the project so they can make an informed decision.

The NWMO employs highly skilled scientists who are amongst the best in the world. These are passionate citizens who

have dedicated their lives to the protection of people and the environment. They are guided by science and the NWMO's values and commitments. To imply that these experts, these parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles and caring members of their communities do not care about our valuable Great Lakes is disappointing and unfair.

While I respect differences of opinion, there is a minimum of rigour necessary for a productive debate. I would invite the authors of the aforementioned flyer to produce scientific evidence for their claims. I am interested in understanding how they came to their conclusion. They also owe it to their neighbours like you.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the NWMO. Myself and my colleagues are always available to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Belfadhel
Vice-President Site Selection, Nuclear
Waste Management Organization

OPINION

Wilson: Local media remains crucial now more than ever

Continued from page 4

This can be done through news stories or opinion pieces. And as evidenced by the pages of this publication, we don't always agree with local politicians and their decisions.

Local media is also there to tell the positive stories in the community.

While some are quick to point out that they can get news for free online, that news has to come from somewhere.

And it costs money to create content

And when there is no local media, that can negatively impact a community.

For communities like Kitchener and Hamilton to recognize the importance of local media, that's a start.

Rural communities like ours are the ones that need local media the most to keep us informed; we'll be the ones to get "lost in the shuffle" if we have to rely on the large city-based media to keep us informed of local news.

I hope that someday soon our local coun-

Claims of 'fear mongering' nothing short of an attempt at silencing opposition

Dear editor,

Recent news articles in our region have featured a "top" NWMO scientist claiming that the

distribution of over 50,000 leaflets to homes in the region was an attempt at "fear mongering" and "misinformation" by grassroots opposition in South Bruce to their plans to establish a high-level deep geological repository (DGR) in the community.

These recent articles demonstrate what I believe to be classic NWMO hardball tactics, whereby they actively seek to target and

Ugh...

The NWMO knows there are alternatives to this project, and they know there are many scientists who question the safety and need for such a project.

It's actually a positive sign that the NWMO is focusing so much effort on grassroots opposition. I think it exposes them for the organization they really are - an organization that is frustrated and upset it can't have its own way and the stark realization that establishing this dump in South Bruce won't be a cake walk. What the NWMO still fails to