

I am sending this email as a brief to the Committee on Environment and Climate Change which is holding hearings on Nuclear Waste Governance in Canada.

As a former New Brunswick D.M.H.O. and medical advisor to the A.E.C.B. I am concerned about radioactive waste in New Brunswick and elsewhere in Canada.

I agree with Gordon Edwards of C.C.N.R. that Parliament must play a more important role in oversight to ensure good governance in matters of nuclear power and radioactive waste. As a result of my past experiences with public health and the AECB, I strongly agree with Gordon Edwards and the Seaborn Panel that we need a nuclear waste management and decommissioning agency that is independent of industry, and of agencies that promote the industry, like NRCAN. The waste agency should report to Parliament on a regular basis, not just to the Minister. The CNSC, the nuclear regulator, should be under Environment Canada, not the Minister of Natural Resources. Unfortunately, the CNSC has become "captured" by the nuclear industry, and this needs to change. The CNSC should also report directly to Parliament. As stressed by the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the Canadian government should archive complete records of the radio-active material we are leaving to future generations. Reprocessing used nuclear fuel to extract plutonium, as has been suggested for New Brunswick, must be banned. It could lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons, which Canada opposes. Abandoning nuclear waste in a D.G.R. is a bad idea. Rolling stewardship is better. Parliamentary action is needed to ensure that the millions of tons of radioactive wastes in Canada are monitored and maintained safely. Please do your best to protect Canadians. This week's attack by Russia on Chernobyl and its nuclear waste facility has certainly called attention to the danger of nuclear wastes.

Yours truly,

Paula Tippett