

August 16, 2017

From: Anthony Cowan

To: Nicole Frigault, Environmental Assessment Specialist  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

By email: cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca

Attn Nicole Frigault re. NSDF

CEAA Reference number: 80122

Attn. Nicole Frigault, Environmental Assessment Specialist, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
By e-mail to cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@Canada.ca  
Re.: Near Surface Disposal Facility Project- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
CEAA Reference #80122

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to oppose the siting/location of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) in the former Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories, now Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, on the Ottawa River. Because of the proximity of the facility to the Ottawa River, and the likelihood of tears in the containment and thus leaks, this siting must not be allowed to happen. I sincerely hope that the Board will act in the interests of all Ottawa Valley residents on both sides of the Ottawa River and not allow this to go ahead at the proposed location. Waterways must be protected at all costs. For this, I thank you in advance.

1) Specifically, the main problem with the proposed site is exactly that, the site itself. To build this "mega-dump" within the kilometer of the river is madness. Company representatives assure us that everything will be just fine. That the barriers will be sufficient to keep the river safe, i.e. within acceptable limits. I and many Valley residents disagree.

Perhaps 25 kilometers from a waterway could be a negotiable target. Any further radioactive pollution into the Ottawa River is to be steadfastly avoided. Number One Priority!

2) Further, I would like to submit to the CNSC the text of a Renfrew County Council motion regarding the siting of any nuclear waste facility.

Renfrew County Citizens for Nuclear Responsibility (RCCNR) was a citizens' group founded in 1978. This was in response to a motion passed by Council supporting the siting of a nuclear dump in Renfrew County. I was a co-founder of RCCNR.

The group waged an intense campaign over two to three months. This included canvassing, public meetings and a petition that garnered more than 4000 names of county residents.

As a result, Renfrew County Council unanimously passed the following motion on May 31, 1978:

"1) Council supports the position that this Council must be advised of and give its endorsement before preliminary geological investigations within the County's jurisdiction are undertaken. Such geological investigations would neither involve radioactive materials nor imply a commitment to any permanent facility.

2) Until such time as a specific proposal is made and presented, this Council will take no further action [on nuclear waste management] (brackets added).

3) Council realizes that due to the special nature of the commitment required on the part of Municipal Government to nuclear waste, reprocessing or interim storage facilities, general public participation and full discussion should precede any decision by government. Ample time should be allowed to develop such dialogue and Council will consider the views of Renfrew County residents."

As previously stated, this motion passed unanimously, after being introduced by Mr. Bill Sneddon, reeve of Deep River.

I do not know the exact relevance or pertinence of the 1978 motion to today's issue. I introduce it for your information, and as evidence to perhaps consider in your decision.

The NSDF on the Chalk River reserve literally will be right beside the Ottawa River, which, it should be noted, is a Canadian Heritage River.

Please do not allow this facility to be built.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition to, and concern about the NSDF at Chalk River, Ontario.

Yours truly  
Anthony Cowan