

August 16, 2017

From: Elizabeth Hutchinson (Le Conseil provincial des femmes du Québec / The Provincial Council of Women of Quebec (CPFQ-PCWQ))

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

By email: [cnsceae-ee.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnsceae-ee.ccsn@canada.ca)

FwChalk River Laboratories Radioactive Dump

CEAA Reference number: 80122

Please find attached a letter from Le Conseil provincial des femmes du Québec / The Provincial Council of Women of Quebec (CPFQ-PCWQ) with Comments concerning the CNSC Environmental Assessment Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) - Chalk River Laboratories.

Elizabeth Hutchinson  
President, CPFQ-PCWQ  
[elasaide@rougenet.qc.ca](mailto:elasaide@rougenet.qc.ca)



*Conseil provincial des femmes du Québec*  
*Provincial Council of Women of Quebec*

**Nicole Frigault**, Environmental Assessment Officer,  
Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
PO Box 1046, Station B, Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Email: [csnsc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:csnsc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca)

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I write on behalf of Le Conseil provincial des femmes du Québec/The Provincial Council of Women of Quebec (CPFQ-PCWQ) which is a non-partisan organization of Québec women, working together to improve the well-being of women, their families and Québec society.

CPFQ-PCWQ is a Federate of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) and we strongly support our sister Council, the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO), in their opposition to the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) proposal for an 18 metre-high, near- surface, “*engineered*” mound, to store 1,000,000 cubic metres of low and intermediate nuclear waste, and radioactive waste containing hazardous substances, at the Chalk River Laboratories site, within a very sensitive natural area less than 1,000 metres from the Ottawa River.

As citizens of Québec we are very conscious of the danger of any possible, not to say probable, contamination of the Ottawa River which forms a large proportion of the western boundary of this province. Should there be any leaks of radioactive material in future decades and centuries there would be a disastrous effect on the environment and health and welfare of nearby and downstream Ontario and Québec residents along the Ottawa River immediately and for many years to come. This effect would most likely continue down the St. Lawrence River to Montréal and beyond.

Since the 1970s Councils of Women at every level have expressed ongoing concerns about the dangers of nuclear energy throughout its entire life-cycle, from mining and milling uranium to radioactive emissions and the disposal of hazardous waste.

In 2010 members of CPFQ-PCWQ expressed their concern about the proposed plan by Bruce Power in Ontario to ship 16 very large deteriorating, radioactive steam generators from its nuclear reactors at its Lake Huron site of operations, through the Great Lakes and along the St. Lawrence River and by ocean to Sweden, for recycling and sale into an unrestricted market. As the proposed route of this dangerous shipment passed directly through Québec we were extremely

concerned about it and wrote to then Premier Charest to express this concern, Our sister Council in Ontario (PCWO) was strongly opposed to this plan, and made a submission to this effect to the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in September that year. This plan was apparently subsequently dropped.

NCWC and its affiliated Provincial Councils have long supported a policy of using the "*precautionary principle*" when assessing projects that may well put human health and safety and the environment at risk.

We very much hope that those making decisions about disposing of dangerous nuclear materials at the Chalk River Laboratories site will pay due attention to this important principle as well as to the numerous objections which can be heard from all sides.

Elizabeth Hutchinson  
President, CPFQ-PCWQ

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Elizabeth Hutchinson, President CPFQ/PCWQ 16 des Merisiers, Harrington, QC J8G 2T2 ealasaid@rougenet.qc.ca