

August 16, 2017

From: Sharon Thorne

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

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

CNL's NSDF Project for Chalk River

CEAA Reference number: 80122

Dear Ms. Frigault,

I am writing to you today because I am absolutely OPPOSED to the NSDF plan for the disposal of radioactive material at Chalk River. This flawed, scientifically and geologically for-profit plan is the product of cheap, fast and dirty thinking by CNL. I am NOT opposed to the need for the containment of nuclear waste (1 million cubic meters of low level and intermediate level radioactive waste which is currently at River.

CNL must find another locale which is a safe, stable, and removed from people.

We live in a Heritage building on the banks of the Ottawa in Old Fort William. Our house is one of the last remaining consistently lived in Factor's Houses. It was built in 1846 by the Hudson's Bay Company to facilitate the fur trade. My husband's (Pat Miller) Great-grandfather, James McCool, purchased it from the HBC in 1869. It has been in my husband's family ever since. We truly feel that we are stewards of this historical home, and of the Ottawa River. To allow this poorly thought out, fast-tracked and for-profit plan by the CNL would dishonour our ancestors who lived on the River, and abandon my Grandchildren and their children's children to an unsafe and unhealthy future.

I am appalled that CNL's NSDF plan has gotten this far. The meeting hosted by CNL on July 15, 2017 did nothing to convince me that this project makes sense on any level because :

- the proposed NSDF site is very close to a swamp, and creek, and is 1 km. from the Ottawa River. Millions of people drink water from the river, and any contamination will affect the Ottawa River watershed, the Ottawa Valley, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Of course that means the population here, down to Ottawa, Montreal and beyond.

- the CNL's definition of a NSDF does not meet IAEA's criteria for safety standards for the disposal of Radioactive waste. CNL's definition of a NSDF doesn't even conform to IAEA's definition of the same. In essence what CNL is proposing is a land fill.

- this "dump" is lined with a geo-membrane which has been known to leak or suffer punctures. Given the fact that Chalk River is near a major fault line, down river from dams which are at the mercy of our unstable climate, and the possibility of wild life penetrating the liner, it will be a true miracle if a breach doesn't occur.

- CNL claims that 99% of the nuclear waste is Low- level radioactivity, and 1 % is considered Intermediate level. Within that 1 % is High level Radioactivity with an half life of over 100,000 years. The NSDF is NOT an acceptable plan for such long term dangerous material.

- CNL is a consortium of American and other international companies whose main interest is generating profit for their stockholders. Chalk River was privatized by the Harper government in 2015. Surely the fact that this site is privatized will attract outside bidders with more Nuclear Waste to dispose of because it is a private dump. Again using profit and not secure safety measures for radioactive waste is a plan for disaster.

- CNL has said that it won't try to stop leaks (and they will happen), but will contain and treat the leachate. Really !?!? Building a safe underground facility would preclude that flawed response.

-Former AEC scientists have said that this is a foolish and unscientifically sound approach to the disposal of Nuclear Waste.

CNL's NSDF plan must be abandoned immediately, and a new, sound, reasoned, safe Internationally compliant plan be put in its place.

Thank you for your time and attention, not only for myself, but for the current and future generations (human and wildlife), who rely on the Ottawa for water and health .

Respectfully yours,

Sharon Thorne