

## Statement for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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I am writing to express my highest concern over the Small Nuclear Reactor planned for the Chalk River facility. I am the nearest full-time downstream resident to this plant, and I am lately hearing too often of new activities that have me, my neighbours, and many others deeply worried about what CNL and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission are up to. The waste dump and the decommissioning of Rolphton were bad enough and still concern us greatly, and now we are having to deal with SMRs. The combination of these three proposals in such a short period of time suggests some sort of melodramatic plot to destroy the peace of the Ottawa Valley.

SMRs are presented as the latest thing in nuclear technology, safe and inexpensive, but to us they are the next *worse* thing—new technology heretofore prohibited in Canada, untested, and resulting in high-level waste.

As the neighbours and the public at large are drawn into these discussions, we continue to be worried when our scientific allies point out significant unanswered questions and drawbacks. It is becoming more apparent to us that we can't present cogent scientific arguments by ourselves, in our own words. This is highly technical stuff, and we are not likely to add anything new to the discussion.

Instead of my trying to summarize the science, I will cite the submission of the Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (Document 20, August 19). I also fully support the submission from Gilles Provost ((Document 11, August 10).

Nuclear science is a lot more complex than our demanding a *Stop* sign at an accident-prone intersection in our community. But this third project, like its predecessors, desperately needs a *Stop* sign. We will not be blinded by your science; we can only reiterate what our own science people have learned, probed, and deduced. There are untested technologies and also many concerns about nuclear proliferation. There are high-level wastes that will be very close to one of Canada's major rivers that provides a source of drinking water, scenery, sport, recreation, and enjoyment for millions of people.

The spectre of Some Big Problem darkens the skies when we look at the Chalk River plant.

The Ottawa River is part of Canada's iconography, and we are worried to death about what might happen to it when something goes wrong—and something always seems to go wrong at nuclear facilities—starting with the 1952 meltdown right here; I need not catalogue all

the other major problems the world over. There is also the bottom-line reality that when private industry develops a project that turns out to have a whopper of a technological fault, corporations cannot be relied upon to devote the endless resources that are required to address it, let alone completely fix it. Missteps taken in the project-development stage may not become apparent for a long time, and unforeseen situations and human and systems' reactions to them during operations, often tend to be *ad hoc* and not covered by The Book. Once again, we downriver folk can only just sit and wait for something to happen.

Our scientific advisors are telling us that you haven't done enough, that you have not provided answers to necessary questions, that you paint an overly nice warm picture of your results and plans while glossing over the dangers.

You're the government. I and many neighbours worked hard to elect you, and we daily wonder when the government and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission are going to step in and bring some fresh air and clarity against the consortium machine. We've had meetings, forums, demonstrations, discussions, letters to the editors, websites, and a lot of concern among the people, yet the machine keeps rolling on, no one talks to us, and we do not exist.

Please, back up and consider all of these projects again. Follow the international standards, consult with outside scientists, and reconsider what you are doing. You can do better.

Go outside and sit at the edge of the River on the shore of the CNL property. You must have glanced at it; now try appreciating it, understanding it. The views both up and down this stretch of the River have barely changed since the *voyageurs* camped on the sand point just down from you. Read the rich history of this area; learn why it's called *Pointe au Baptême*. All of those who live and spend time around here know that history, and we revel in it and in the land and water. Live downriver from the plant, side by side with us. Swim and boat and fish with us. See the Ottawa Valley beyond your screens, numbers, forecasts, scenarios, and the emergency plans.

Consider what your very own property looked like before the nuclear era began in Canada. (See photo.)

Build somewhere else, where there are no streams, no faults, no dams, few people, and lots of wide open space.

Or how about going even further—



change your mission, your goals, and direction: build batteries, windmills, and solar panels. Put your awesome brainpower behind safe and renewable sources of energy, projects can be good neighbours, needing no attention once they wear out and are switched off and shut down for good.

This earth is being saddled with too many long-term problems without your sowing the potential seeds of yet more unrecoverable nuclear issues. Our grandchildren already have enough to worry about; they are going to despise us for leaving the climate-change mess for them to live with. Don't add any more problems onto their shoulders. Do them a favour: come up with solutions that address climate change and that don't leave a mess. Our increasing levels of carbon dioxide comprise the biggest and most threatening problem the earth has ever known. If that is not solved in a major way very soon, nothing else will matter.

Thank you.