
From: Vicki Obedkoff <email address removed>
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:08 PM
To: Nuclear Waste / Déchets Nucléaires (IAAC/AEIC)
Subject: comments re Jan 5 Impact Assessment review and "initial project description"

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's proposed deep geological repository for nuclear fuel waste which the NWMO is proposing to construct and operate between Ignace and Dryden in northwestern Ontario. I am a minister of the United Church of Canada, an organization with a long history of participating in nuclear waste issues and in particular with the Seaborn Panel (1990-98.) which established crucial criteria for evaluating long-term, high-risk projects in Canada. My comments are on the Impact Assessment review process which began on January 5th and the NWMO's "initial project description".

First, the 30-day comment period is too short. Many people who are concerned about this project, including the transportation of the radioactive waste to the site, will not have even heard about the comment period. This is an important project that will have impacts far, far into the future. The review process must be thorough and allow public participation, and a 30-day comment period works against that.

Second, the project description is inadequate and omits important information about the project. For one, the NWMO is trying to persuade the Impact Assessment Agency that transportation can be left out of the review after describing transportation as part of their project for more than twenty years.

Long-distance transportation must be included in the project review with ample time and opportunity for the public to comment. I have driven highway 11/17 and am aware of the high rate of accidents. Accident statistics are readily available. If nuclear waste will be transported 3 times a day, for 20 -50 years, there will be accidents. The Impact Assessment must consider potential accidents, safety plans, public health and environmental consequences of spills of radiological materials, and the costs and responsibilities of clean-up and mitigation of negative impacts.

Third, the NWMO also provides too little information about project activities, including those project activities that pose radiological risk for the workers and for residents in the area and downstream from the project site. There is not enough information about the Used Fuel Packaging Plant, how the wastes will be transferred into the underground and placed in the emplacement rooms, how the containers will be monitored after they are underground, and how they will be retrieved or repaired in the event of a container failing. The NWMO must be required to provide a detailed project description.

I am requesting that this project be the subject of a full impact assessment including a public hearing, and that the Impact Assessment Agency ensure that the public is able to participate in a meaningful way through each step of the process. This must not be a rush job that lacks transparency and thorough opportunity for public scrutiny and comment.

Thank you for considering my comments and concerns.

Dr. Victoria Obedkoff, <personal information removed> Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Metis nation.

<email address removed>