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**From:** Jeff Copenace <contact information removed>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 2, 2026 12:02 PM  
**To:** Nuclear Waste / Déchets Nucléaires (IAAC/AEIC)  
**Subject:** Initial Project Description - Comments from Ojibways of Onigaming

Boozhoo Good Morning,

This email is to provide a written submission with comments for the Initial Project Description for the NWMO project in northwestern Ontario.

Below are comments from the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation:

- The project must take into account the traditional territories of other First Nations like Eagle Lake and not just Wabigoon Ojibway Nation. Currently the project ignores other First Nations in Treaty #3 who should also have a right to be consulted and accommodated due to the impacts on their traditional territories where the proposed nuclear repository will be built.
- Other First Nations that directly make the site-host their homelands, like Eagle Lake First Nation have not been consulted to date.
- The Ojibways of Onigaming have not been consulted to date as a signatory to Treaty #3, where the project is to be constructed.
- Currently the project does not take into account the long-distance transportation of nuclear waste across the province of Ontario. Only in-site transportation is considered in the current Initial Project Description. The long-distance transportation of nuclear waste poses a significant health and environmental risk to all humans and wildlife living in northwestern Ontario and along the transportation corridor leading to the repository.
- We are concerned about the business practices of NWMO. It appears that the NWMO has bought off or bribed First Nations and organizations to take part in the “Learn More” process and have purchased their consent.

Miigwech thank you.

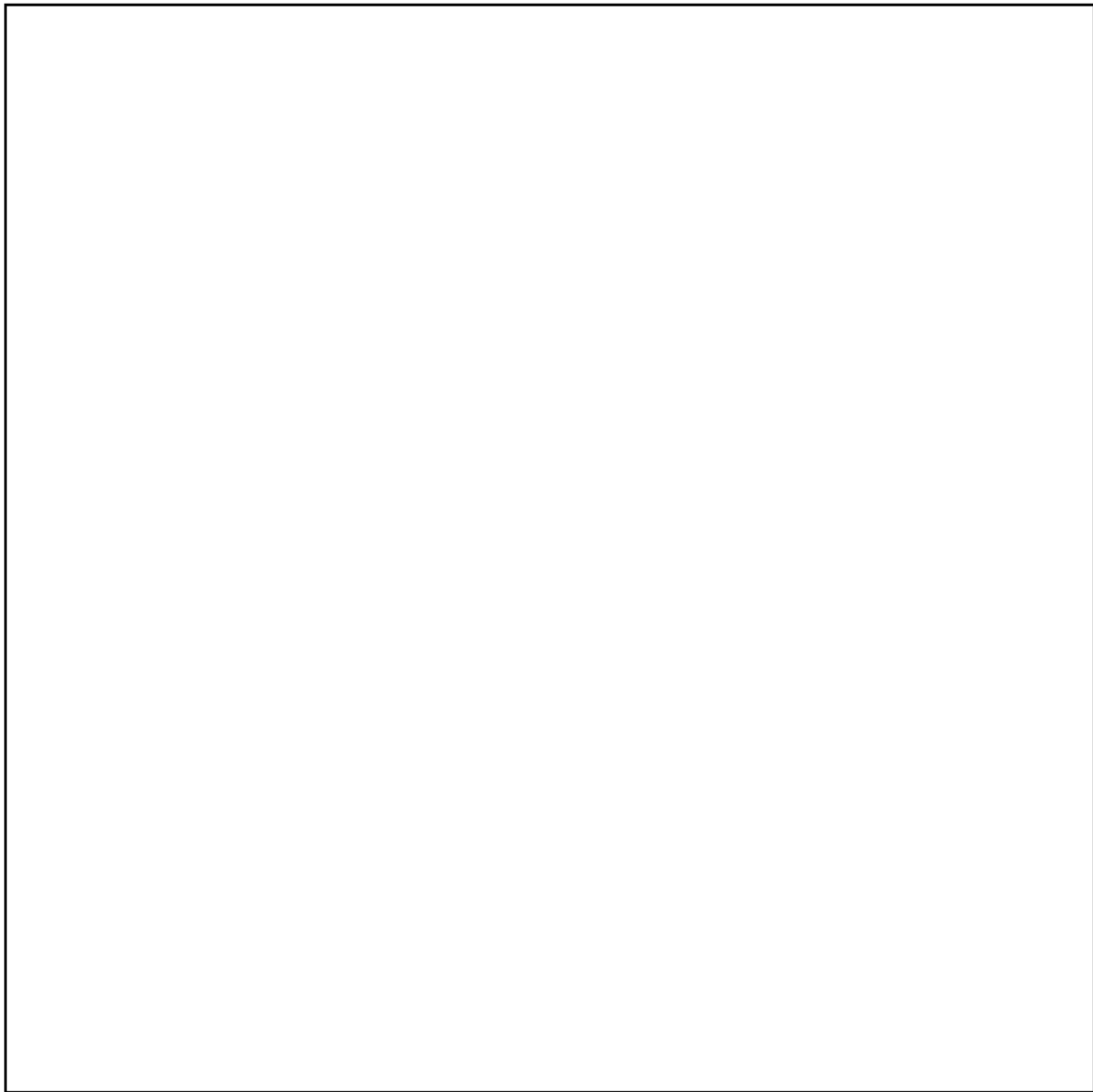
Chief Jeff Copenace  
On behalf of the Ojibways of Onigaming  
<contact information removed>

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**From:** We the Nuclear Free North<contact information removed>  
**Sent:** February 1, 2026 11:12 AM  
**To:**<contact information removed>  
**Subject:** Comment by Wednesday on NWMO's Nuclear Waste Transportation and Burial Scheme

You don't often get email from [info@nuclearfreenorth.ca](mailto:info@nuclearfreenorth.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



We are in the final stretch! The deadline for comments on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's "Initial Project Description" is **11:59 pm Wednesday**. It's important that you get comments in by that time - they can be long and complex or short and to the point! What matters most is that the Impact Assessment Agency hears from you by the deadline! **Your voice matters.**

**KEY MESSAGES**

**COMMON QUESTIONS**

- NWMO'S "Deep Geological Repository project" must be designated for a full impact assessment and public hearing
- Transportation must be included in the impact assessment
- A thorough examination of alternatives to the project and alternative means of carrying out the project must be included in the impact assessment
- The Initial Project Description fails to provide the necessary information about the NWMO's project; a detailed project description is necessary

#### **How do I submit comments?**

You can use the online "[portal](#)" on the Impact Assessment Agency web site (step-by-step instructions are provided [HERE](#)) or you can send your comments by email to [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

#### **What should I include in my comments?**

In addition to the key messages your comments should express any other concerns you have with the NWMO's project and your criticisms of the project description. View a starter list of issues [HERE](#); choose one or more and comment on why it is important to be included in the impact assessment and whether the NWMO provided enough information in their "initial project description"

#### **How should I organize my comments?**

There's no right or wrong way. You can view a suggested format [HERE](#) and a template letter [HERE](#).

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The draft list of issues, format and template letter are for suggestions and ideas only. (links below).

Your unique comments are the most effective contribution for this comment period.

[List of Issues](#)

[Format for Letters](#)

[Letter Template](#)

[View January 28 preparatory webinar](#)

[View the January 28 webinar slides](#)

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### Check Out the Public Comments!

#### Public Comments on Registry

The number of comments is growing rapidly, but as of noon Sunday (Feb 1) there are 268 submissions posted. The links below are to a sampling:

- [Nearby Tourist camp operator](#)
- [Eagle Lake First Nation \(detailed\)](#)
- [Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition](#)
- [Assembly of First Nations \(report\)](#)
- [Town of Kapuskasing](#)
- [Local Resident \(Borups Corners\)](#)
- [Biigtigong Nishnaabeg](#)
- [Eagle Lake First Nation](#)
- [Comment on Transportation](#)

### Regional and National Media Coverage

As with our "sampling" of public comments, the following links to recent media coverage is incomplete, mostly because of the volume of coverage. Check them out!

[Public invited to comment on NWMO project](#), [Sioux Bulletin](#)  
[First Nation says nuclear site review could 'prejudice' legal case](#), [The Narhwal](#)  
[Authorities say they can't extend 1st nuclear site comment period](#), [NWONews](#)  
[What Canada's Nuclear Waste Plan means for New Brunswick](#), [NB Media Co-op](#)  
[Ontario's proposed nuclear waste repository poses millennia-long ethical questions](#), [The Conversation](#)

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Full  
IPD

Summary  
IPD

10 page  
IPD

Public  
Comments

All  
Records

## KEY FACTS

- A federal review of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) "Adaptive Phased Management Project" commenced on January 5th, and the public has just 30 days to review an "initial project description". The public comment period will close at 11:59 pm on Wednesday, February 4th.
- The NWMO's plan is to transport, process and bury all of Canada's nuclear fuel waste at a site between Ignace and Dryden in northwestern Ontario. The project will include 50 years of transporting highly radioactive waste with average transportation distances of 1,800 km per trip (1,700 from Ontario reactors). The 160 years of operation will place 150,000 tonnes of the radioactive waste underground in the headwaters of the Wabigoon River watersheds.

- NWMO has selected a site between Ignace and Dryden in northwestern Ontario, in the heart of Treaty 3 territory. The NWMO has deemed only Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township of Ignace to be “host communities”.
- The Township of Ignace is 45 km east of the site and in a different watershed; there are other communities closer by and hundreds of communities along the transportation route and downstream from the site who the NWMO has not included in their decision to select the Revell site.
- The NWMO describes the Revell site as being “in the territory of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation” but there are several other Treaty 3 Nations who are also in relationship with the land NWMO has selected. Treaty 3 Chiefs in Assembly have expressed their opposition, as have Nishnawbi Aski Nation, Anishnabek Nation and Chiefs of Ontario.
- The NWMO project will generate radioactive releases at each stage, from transportation to when the wastes are eventually abandoned underground
- There is no operating deep geological repository (DGR) for high-level nuclear waste anywhere in the world; there are project in Finland and Sweden under development but no DGR has received final approval or begun to operate

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## Clock is Running on Nuclear Waste Project Comment Period

We are in the final stretch of the 30 day comment period on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's radioactive waste transportation and burial scheme. The federal review [commenced on January 5th](#), and the public has until February 4th to comment on the NWMO's "Initial Project Description.

The [1,233-page document](#) and a [92-page summary](#) are available on the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's website. There is also a [10 page summary](#) at the beginning of both the full and the summary

A key concern is that the NWMO is pushing to exclude long-distance transportation, despite the *Impact Assessment Act's* requirement that activities integral to a project be included in its assessment. [Additional action tools and supporting information](#) including links to [register](#) for *We the Nuclear Free North's* January 28th webinar and to the Impact Assessment Agency's project page and documents are available on WTNFN's webpage: [www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca/impacts/](http://www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca/impacts/)

Read our January 7 bulletin [HERE](#)

IPD. That "summary of the summary" is good starting point in reading the NWMO's project description. Consider starting with the 10 page version and then going to the sections you wish to comment on in the longer version.

Read our January 7 News Release [HERE](#)  
Read our January 26 News Release [HERE](#)  
Visit our web page [HERE](#)  
Read comments on the registry [HERE](#)  
Register for our January 28 webinar [HERE](#)

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Send an email to the Impact Assessment Agency using the email [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) to be added to the Agency's notice list.

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[Click HERE to get on the notice list for the federal review](#)

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**In July *We the Nuclear Free North* produced 3 short "explainer" videos to provide background, context and analysis for the NWMO's false start to the federal review.**

1970s to now (6  
decades in 6  
minutes!)

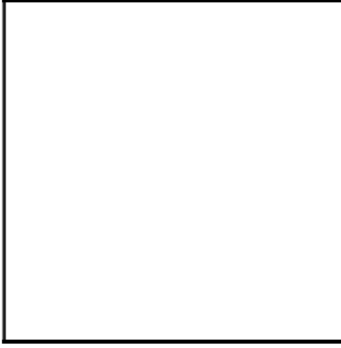
Impact Assessment  
(10 minutes)

NWMO's "summary  
IPD" (5 minutes)

So what did NWMO have to say for itself in their "engagement" sessions last summer?

**NWMO wants to keep transportation issues out of the federal impact assessment of their nuclear waste transportation and burial project (5 minutes)**

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**We the Nuclear Free North** is an alliance of people and groups opposing a Deep Geological Repository for nuclear waste in Northern Ontario. We oppose the transport, burial and abandonment of this radioactive waste in our northern watersheds.

Our alliance is honoured to have received the name **Tataganobin**: *looking far ahead into the future*. **Learn more** about who we are, and the origin and meaning of this name.

Follow us on social media! From Facebook to TikTok, Instagram to Twitter, you'll find us there! Click below.

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## Would Your Group Like to Host a Presentation?

You can request volunteers from **We the Nuclear Free North** to do a **presentation** (Zoom or in-person) for your private or public group. Get in touch!

**Email:** [nuclearfreenorth@gmail.com](mailto:nuclearfreenorth@gmail.com) , or call: 1-855-225-8055 (toll free).

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## Thank you for your support!

Financial donations are always appreciated. You can send your donation by Interac to email [nuclearfreenorth@gmail.com](mailto:nuclearfreenorth@gmail.com), through our **GoFundMe** account, or through our **charitable partner** (be sure to use the menu to identify We the Nuclear Free North as the intended recipient of your donation).



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Box Box 10012, Thunder Bay,  
ON, P7B 6T6

1 855 225 8055  
(toll free)

email:  
[info@nuclearfreenorth.ca](mailto:info@nuclearfreenorth.ca)  
[www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca](http://www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca)

If you would like to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

