

From Philosopher's Wool Environmental Preserve (PWEF) to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada: Comments regarding the NWMO's Initial Project Description: Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project (December 2025)

February 3, 2026

PWEP is an environmental non-profit organization headquartered at 2 Alma Street in Inverhuron (Tiverton), ON. It is our mandate to protect and preserve fragile natural environments in Inverhuron and throughout the Lake Fringe and Penetangore portions of the Saugeen Watershed. Our mission is to organize and/or participate in environmental projects designed to preserve and protect flora and fauna; preserve, protect, and restore rivers; improve the rural and urban environment; provide environmental education resources to the public; and conduct and/or support research relating to the environment and to disseminate the results of such research.

Because of our proximity to the Bruce Power nuclear generating site, and following our environmental protection mandate, we continue to be alert to nuclear issues such as the proposed Bruce C project and the evolution of Canada's used nuclear fuel plans. We hereby request to be kept informed with regards to the proposed DGR project, and would like to contribute further comments going forward. The present letter represents our preliminary comments and is not comprehensive, due to the complexity of the proposal and the multitude of anticipated impacts.

We would like to emphasize the need for a full impact assessment and public hearing for this project that has such far-reaching consequences. It is of the utmost importance that the assessment process of the proposed DGR be comprehensive to the fullest degree. All concerns regarding safety and environmental impacts of the proposed DGR must be fully addressed and resolved. We will all be impacted by this plan, as will the natural environment, for millennia to come.

At this time PWEP is especially concerned that the NWMO does not intend to include the transportation of radioactive wastes in the impact assessment (p. 26 *Initial Project Description Plain Language Summary*). Several trucks traveling on public roads on a daily basis for fifty years, transporting highly radioactive waste from nuclear generating stations including our neighboring Bruce Power to the proposed DGR site in northwestern Ontario, is by all standards a hazardous undertaking. Many of the roads in our area are two-lane rural routes frequented by tractors and Amish buggies. We are concerned about impacts of increased traffic throughout our area, as well as potential hazards along the entire travel route that the project would entail, especially the effect of an accident public safety and wildlife. How would existing infrastructure (roads, bridges etc) be adapted to sustain the added stressors? In what ways would public safety be prioritized and ensured? How would negative impacts on wildlife be avoided?

To exclude the transportation issue from the impact assessment is dangerous and ill-advised.

In terms of public engagement, we would like to express our concern regarding the brief commenting period allotted to the IPD. Due to the complexity and far-reaching consequences of the matter at hand, we submit that a 30-day period is not sufficient, and suggest that commenting periods be extended going forward.

Thank you for taking into consideration our comments, and we look forward to being kept in the loop and working toward ensuring the safety of the community and the environment.

Sincerely,

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Respectfully acknowledging that I live, work and benefit from the Lands and Waters of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.