

IS RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMING YOUR Way?

Your elected officials need to know how you answer these two questions:

- 1) **Do you want nuclear waste to be shipped across the Great Lakes?**
- 2) **Do you want radioactive waste recycled into metal used for everyday products?**

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission staff is recommending approval of licensing that will permit both of these dangerous actions to take place. The Great Lakes shipment would go through U.S. waters, **so the U.S. Department of Transportation will be asked to approve the Canadian plans.** There was a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission hearing that took place this week on Sept. 28 and 29th. No hearing would have taken place at all, had not Great Lakes citizens, elected officials and NGOs publicized this critical issue - which could open the door to many more shipments of radioactive wastes from reactors on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway.

Please

CONTACT YOUR U. S. REP & SENATORS and URGE THEM TO:

- 1) STOP these nuclear waste shipment and recycling plans.
- 2) PROTECT the public health, environmental and economic well being of the Great Lakes.
- 3) DEMAND thorough, open and complete environmental impact reports in both the United States and Canada before making any decisions about these matters.

LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU STRONGLY OPPOSE:

- 1) Shipping radioactive nuclear waste across the Great Lakes and
- 2) Recycling the radioactive metals into consumer goods.

AND STRONGLY SUPPORT:

- 1) A full and open process by the U. S. Department of Transportation PHMSA to carefully assess the radiological risks presented by this Canadian plan to ship radioactive wastes across the Great Lakes system and the Atlantic Ocean.

2) A full and open process to consider the many public health and environmental concerns raised by the practice of adding radioactive metal to the world's metal markets, and to use this information as a basis of policy making regarding radioactive recycling.

CALL the Capitol Switchboard in Washington DC **202-224-3121** and ask to be connected to your US Representative and both of your US Senators.

YOUR CALLS WILL HELP PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES – PLEASE CALL NOW!

BACKGROUND & TALKING POINTS

In 2006, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CSNC) approved plans for dealing with certain worn out radioactive parts of nuclear power plants. Since 2007, Bruce Power Company has stored these 16 radioactive steam generators on-site at the Western Waste Management Facility located in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada.

However, in April 2010, Bruce Power submitted a very different proposal.

Instead of leaving the plutonium contaminated steam generators where they are, the plan now is to transport these large (the size of a school bus), heavy (100 metric tons each) and radioactive steam generators 90 kilometers by road to the port of Owen Sound, Ontario, where all of them will be loaded onto a single ship bound for Sweden.

Two exemptions from international radioactive shipping standards must be given in order for the shipment to take place: 1) allowing the shipment to exceed the total amount of radioactivity allowed for a single shipment, and 2) allowing the shipment to proceed without the mandatory shipping containers.

The plan calls for the ship to pass through United States waters on it's proposed journey across Lake Huron, down the St. Clair River, across Lake St. Clair, down the Detroit River, across Lake Erie, down the Niagara River, across Lake Ontario, down the St. Lawrence River, across the Atlantic Ocean, finally arriving at Studsvik, Sweden on the Baltic Sea. Studsvik is also the name of the metal processing corporation that is supposed to recycle the radioactive steam generators; this company currently plans to increase radioactive materials processing in Tennessee and the United Kingdom as well.

This new plan to traverse 90 kilometers on land and then enter the Great Lakes system and the Atlantic Ocean is radically different than the officially approved 2006 plan to safely store these radioactive materials where they are presently located, thus avoiding the risks of transportation and accidental release of radioactivity into the Great Lakes and associated waters. The environmental assessment of such a plan was not conducted in 2006, because this was not the

plan of action then.

Furthermore, the part of the plan to 'recycle' the contaminated metal really means that this will add to the radioactive contamination of the world's metals markets. Your toaster, folding chair or medical appliance could be radioactive – HOW WILL YOU KNOW? Additionally, 25% of the most contaminated metals (400 metric tons) will be shipped back to Halifax Canada for road shipment back to the facility in which it is currently stored.

Also, adding the much larger area of transport by ocean-going ship, as well as the enormous amount of processing once in Studvik, including blasting, cutting, incineration and melting etc., along with the return trip via the Atlantic Ocean with the remaining wastes, will add enormously to the original carbon footprint.

The Staff of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canada's equivalent to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has recommended approving this plan and issuing the requested licenses, stating that they consider the plan to be perfectly safe.

An international outcry from citizens and organizations has led the CNSC to schedule a single hearing about these plans. This hearing took place this week in Ottawa and had to be extended a full day due to the large number of intervenors.

But, NO environmental assessment on this new, greatly expanded geographical route and plan has been done, nor has the public been given comprehensive information regarding the environment and public safety.

We need to protect the Great Lakes system and the St. Lawrence Seaway. It is a unique and important asset, comprising 90% of North America's fresh water, providing drinking water to over 40 million people, and hosting fisheries worth \$4B. The Great Lakes play an important part in the lives of Native Americans, and are an important source of tourism and recreation. Additionally, they are home to a large and unique diversity of wildlife, aquatic species and flora.

MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION ARE:

1) **The U.S. Department of Transportation should conduct a full and open NEPA process that involves public participation in developing an environmental impact statement before any decision can be made.**

Because the Canadian plan of action is so greatly different than the one approved in 2006, a new Canadian Environmental Assessment also needs to be done before any decision can be made.

2) **Exemptions to international radioactive waste shipping standards should not be allowed.** If the first 16 radioactive steam generators are allowed to exceed the total radiation limit per shipment and not have any transportation containment, this will set a precedent for shipment of the second set of 16

radioactive steam generators at the Bruce Power facility. Additionally, there are many more steam generators and other radioactive wastes – including high-level radioactive wastes – from the U.S. and Canada that could then be shipped through the Great Lakes.

3) **This is an unprecedented transportation project, one aim of which is to give legitimacy to the idea of globalized trafficking in radioactive steel in consumer products.** While the **U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)** has preliminarily stated that it considers this to be a routine licensing case and that it has no obligation to allow public scrutiny or comment upon the license application, consider this: **making consumer goods out of transuranic radioactive waste will have enormous public health and environmental consequences around the world.** In light of these implications, federal environmental law requires truthful projections of what goods are likely to be produced from the radioactive salvage metal; how many people are likely to be exposed to radiation about which they have no knowledge nor have given consent; and the projected health effects and the economic and environmental costs of those health effects. In light of the unique precedent signified by the project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires certain disclosures to the U.S. public in order for the public and the agency to make a meaningful and informed decision about the desirability of setting the precedent of international shipments of radioactive waste for recycling with potential effects on the human environment.

LET YOUR US REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATORS KNOW WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO!

LINKS

Great Lakes United webpage with Letter to Governments, Resolution and background materials: www.glu.org/en/campaigns/energy/nuclear/steam-generators <<http://www.glu.org/en/campaigns/energy/nuclear/steam-generators>>

Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility - <http://www.ccnr.org/> Once at the website, add #SG after the URL, or scroll down until you come to the heading: **Radioactive Steam Generators**

Beyond Nuclear - <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/> - Look under "Radioactive Waste" "What's New"

Sierra Club of Canada - <http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/publications/action-alert-stop-shipment-dangerous-nuclear-waste>
www.sierraclub.ca/en/publications/action-alert-stop-shipment-dangerous-nuclear-waste <<http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/publications/action-alert-stop-shipment-dangerous-nuclear-waste>>