

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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From: **We the Nuclear Free North** and
Protect Our Waterways



Petition Demands Nuclear Fuel Waste Be Managed Close to Points of Generation at Nuclear Generating Stations

TORONTO – A petition asking the Provincial government to adopt a proximity principle requiring that high-level radioactive waste be managed close to where it is generated, and to direct Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to further their development of robust extended storage systems in these locations, was presented today in Ontario’s Legislative Assembly by Lise Vaugeois (NDP - Thunder Bay-Superior North), Sol Mamakwa (NDP - Kiiwetinoong) and Mike Schreiner (GPO Leader - Guelph).

OPG owns over 90% of the nuclear fuel waste in Canada, and is a major shareholder in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), which is seeking a site for a deep geological repository for all of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste. Two sites are now short-listed: the Revell Site between Ignace and Dryden, and the South Bruce-Teeswater Site near Teeswater.

Members of We the Nuclear Free North in Northern Ontario, and Protect Our Waterways – No Nuclear Waste in Southwestern Ontario, have collected 1,141 signatures on the petition.

“Transport of this lethal waste thousands of kilometres through Ontario is an outrageous proposal,” said Dodie LeGassick, member of We the Nuclear Free North and Nuclear Lead for Environment North. “Management close to the points of generation would improve safety and allow waste to be moved into more secure storage sooner, not delaying decades for a theoretical repository. Long-term management near the reactors, but not right on lakeshores, makes sense and removes the risks of transport.”

Bill Noll of Protect Our Waterways – No Nuclear Waste said, “The rush to bury this highly radioactive waste is a desperate proposal by the nuclear industry, as represented by the NWMO. The signers of this petition favour a rolling stewardship approach: secure management of the radioactive waste near its points of origin, at or near the surface, where the waste can be accessed and monitored.”

Additional petitions are active among groups opposing the NWMO’s proposed deep geological repository. Environment North has collected over 12,000 signatures on an [online petition](#) that opposes NWMO’s nine-step siting plan, and Protect Our Waterways – No Nuclear Waste is circulating a petition informing the Ontario government that Ontario is not a willing host for a deep geological repository, and demanding programs that prioritize the investigation of technology alternatives.

For more information on the petition to be presented May 30 at the Ontario Legislative Assembly, visit www.wethenuclearfreenorth/petitions. Live stream of 9 am media conference: www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/video/media-studio. Live stream of 3 pm petition presentations: www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/video.

Contact: Dodie LeGassick, We the Nuclear Free North & Environment North, 807-630-8176
Charles Faust, We the Nuclear Free North, 807-633-0202
Bill Noll, Protect Our Waterways, 519-507-9905
Anja van der Vlies, Protect Our Waterways, 519-901-3285