

MEDIA RELEASE

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From: Environment North
environmentnorth.ca



Postcard Warns of Proposed Radioactive Nuclear Fuel Waste Transportation Through Thunder Bay

THUNDER BAY – Local environmental protection group Environment North is sending over 25,000 postcards to Thunder Bay postal addresses during the first half of April, warning of the dangers of proposed nuclear fuel waste transport through the city.

“We carefully targetted the postal delivery routes for this mailing,” said Scott Harris, President of Environment North. “If you receive a postcard, it means your home is very near either the proposed highway or railway route for the nuclear fuel waste.”

The postcard campaign is in response to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (NWMO’s) proposal to transport and bury all of Canada’s radioactive nuclear fuel waste at a site south of the TransCanada Highway, 45 km west of Ignace, in the coming years.

The NWMO is a corporation comprised of and controlled by nuclear power companies. The organization proposes to move a projected 120,000 tonnes of radioactive nuclear fuel waste to a deep geological repository site over the course of 50 years – which would involve 2-3 loads a day.

There is no other operating deep geological repository for nuclear fuel waste in the world, and the scale of the proposed transport of the waste is unprecedented.

“I can’t overstate the risks of transporting this highly radioactive waste,” said Dodie LeGassick, Nuclear Lead for Environment North. “Although the loads will travel in strong containment casks, gamma radiation will be emitted constantly. If there is an accident causing a breach of a cask or its immersion in water, the results could be catastrophic. Computer-modelled predictions won’t help those who could be affected.”

Environment North opposes plans proposed by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to bury all of Canada’s nuclear fuel waste in Northwestern Ontario. The NWMO intends to make its siting decision for the deep geological repository in 2024. Two sites remain in the running: the site in NW Ontario, and a site in South Bruce near Teeswater, Ontario.

More information is available on the websites environmentnorth.ca and nuclearfreenorth.ca.

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