

MANITOBA ENERGY JUSTICE COALITION: RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL IN NW ONTARIO

WHEREAS The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been in the process of investigating potential sites for a deep geological repository for high-level nuclear waste from all of Canada's nuclear power reactors since 2010; and

WHEREAS One of the two "finalist" sites is the Revell Lake area in NW Ontario; and

WHEREAS the NWMO project involves the transportation, processing, burial, and abandonment of an estimated 100,000 tonnes of highly radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS there are scientific and public concerns about the risks of radioactive exposures along the transportation route from reactors in Southern Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec and in the region of and downstream from the proposed Revell area repository site under both normal operating and accident conditions; and

WHEREAS Lake of the Woods, Lake Wabigoon, Rainy River and Winnipeg River systems are all downstream of the Revell area and upstream of Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay. There is a high probability that it's not if, but when radioactive elements get into groundwater and then into surface waters, people and the environment here in Manitoba will be harmed; and

WHEREAS the government of Manitoba in 1987 banned the disposal of high level radioactive waste in Manitoba; and

AND WHEREAS communities in Manitoba do not rely on nuclear power therefore our watershed should not be burdened with the risks of burial and abandonment of the highly radioactive wastes the nuclear power reactors have produced; and

AND WHEREAS the NWMO has repeatedly said they will not proceed without an "informed and willing host" but have excluded Manitobans living downstream from their definition of "host" and determination of willingness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition urges the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to establish secure storage solutions for nuclear waste in the vicinity of the reactor stations where the waste has been generated and is currently stored and not pursue the transport to and disposal of these radioactive wastes in Northern Ontario.

Date May 28, 2024

Organization Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition

Signed by Lydia Schroeder-Hart