**CNSC’s Public Consultation on Deep Ground Repositories (DGRs)**

I am against deep ground repositories for multiple reasons after listening to many presentations on the topic.

-There is currently no safe way of containing nuclear waste in the ground forever and anywhere in the world and no DGR anywhere yet.

-Canada should not plan to bury the nuclear waste and forget about it (a repository). Sweden has been designing one for the past 40 years but even they have apprehensions so they would make the waste retrievable and they would be monitoring it to mitigate the risks, though it’s very costly.

-The containers are subject to humidity and heat underground which is a problem and the current material in which they are encapsulated is corroding and deteriorating and there needs to be a plan to make sure that material is regularly monitored in order to replace it. There needs to be proper funding in order to do that and a plan to do so down the line regardless of future elected political parties.

-The US tried to use the Yucca mountain as a repository to contain their nuclear waste and their design failed because of the water, the porous surfaces, and the containers for instance. The volcanic/seismic activity was known but the project went ahead… and it was part of why it was so problematic. We would want better assurances about the long term safety of the operation in the selected sites.

-By having deep ground repositories for our nuclear waste we have no way of ensuring that our underwater sources of water are not contaminated in years to come. Ontario has a network of complex groundwater tables and aquifer that feeds into our lakes and rivers. We have the world’s largest source of fresh water and we are about to carelessly contaminate it for our generation and all future ones to come. We need to safeguard water.

-What is the design of the DGR? It feels like the design was not presented at the first stages of the approval process for the people to get a clear idea of what is to be expected while giving consent and determining what is considered safe. Will there be a chimney to allow an airflow? Will that allow nuclear particles to escapes into the surrounding air if some are released into the repository? It contaminates the air, the earth, the water, the food chain… us.

-I am also against it because it should not be a matter of strictly allowing the municipality in which it will be buried in to vote. The land is on unceded Native territory to begin with and communities should have full informed prior consent and it shouldn’t just be limited to the town that will host the mounds of nuclear waste, the waste will travel through numerous towns and cities, using provincial roads and highways that belong to all Ontarians and Canadians.

-The sites that have been selected for DGRs are quite a distance away from the nuclear centrals and the nuclear waste will travels kilometres and kilometres by trucks right next to our homes, our families in our cars, lakes and rivers, schools, agricultural fields, forests and everything else we hold dear and pay for through our taxes and hard-earned money. If anything should happen, and it’s a question of time before it will, the taxpayers will be left with the bill of the cleanup and consequences to their health, lives, economy and environment to name a few. It is dangerous.

We should leave nuclear waste closer to where it is produced, but further away from the great lakes and our fresh drinking water in an above ground facility that is reinforced so that it is protected against flooding/climate impacts and terror attacks.

-There should be a clear set of rules that potential licensees must meet to secure a license; not just for deep geological repositories, but for all nuclear projects. The rules must require a vigorous review of nuclear projects.

-The nuclear industry is the operator of such nuclear projects and they themselves should not be regulators, a truly independent agency should be appointed.

AND WE MUST STOP PRODUCING NUCLEAR WASTE. NOW. It is not clean energy. It is toxic, dangerous, and costly. We already have more waste than we can handle.

Thank you for considering public concerns such as mine,

Alexandra Franche

A concerned citizen, Ontario, Canada