

1) 2011 – Shipment of 16 Radioactive “Steam Generators” (100 tons each) stopped

The Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus worked together to stop these radioactive waste shipments from the Bruce Nuclear Complex (on Lake Huron) through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence and across the Atlantic to Sweden, where some of the contaminated metal would be “freely released” into scrap metal for general use without any labelling to show the metal contains radioactive waste materials. Although all official approvals were given, the shipments never occurred because of massive public opposition.

2) 2017 – Shipments of Highly Radioactive Liquid Waste over public roads

The Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus tried without success to stop a series of truckloads of 23,000 litres of highly radioactive liquid waste called “Target Residue Material” containing large quantities of fission products (e.g. 70 billion becquerels of cesium-137 per litre) and transuranic actinides (plutonium, americium, neptunium) over 2000 miles of public roads from Chalk River Ontario to the DOE SRS site in South Carolina. Based on the cesium-137 content alone, calculations have shown that just 60 cc of this liquid waste would be enough to contaminate 510 million litres of drinking water to the maximum extent allowed by US EPA regulations. These shipments are ongoing today, as only 60% of the liquid waste has been transported; 40% remains to be shipped over the next two years. There has been no consultation by the federal government with the affected First Nations communities.

3) 2018 –Plan for permanent surface dump of radioactive waste beside Ottawa River

A consortium of publicly funded multinational corporations, operating under the name Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is planning to permanently store one million cubic metres of mixed radioactive waste in a surface dump, 5 to 7 stories high, covering 11 hectares of land, less than one kilometre from the Ottawa River, which provides drinking water for over 10 million people. Despite the holding of one-way information sessions, there has been no genuine consultation with First Nations regarding this project and no opportunity to discuss alternatives. It is inevitable that these radioactive wastes will leak into the Ottawa River both before and after abandonment.

4) 2018 –Plan for entombing radioactive remains of a reactor beside Ottawa River

The same consortium, CNL, has announced plans to “entomb” the radioactive remains of the NPD nuclear reactor at Rolphton, Ontario, just 250 metres from the Ottawa River. The highly radioactive components from the core region of the reactor together with the entire heavily contaminated primary cooling system, along with all the other low and intermediate level wastes in the reactor, would be dumped into the sub-basement and the entire subterranean structure would be flooded with cement, turning the entire structure into a radioactive mausoleum that will contain radioactive materials – or not -- for many thousands of years. There has been no consultation with First Nations over these plans nor any public discussion of alternatives. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) strongly recommends against entombment. A similar entombment is planned by CNL for the WR1 reactor located at Pinawa, Manitoba on the Winnipeg River.

5) 2018 – Plan for 2000 shipments of radioactive waste from Manitoba to Ontario

The same consortium, CNL, has already embarked on a series of 2000 shipments of radioactive waste over public roads from Pinawa Manitoba to Chalk River Ontario, without any public process or any consultation with First Nations. About one-quarter of these shipments will involve intermediate-level waste requiring radiation shielding to protect workers, drivers and the public from unnecessary radiation exposures. About 50 shipments will be carrying the most radioactive material on Earth, irradiated nuclear fuel. The lack of consultation in relation to these shipments is particularly worrisome as it shows a negligent attitude on the government's part

6) 2019 – Plan to eliminate environmental assessment for “small” nuclear reactors

The government of Canada has introduced an “impact assessment” law (Bill C-69) to create an independent assessment agency to hold hearings on the environmental and social impacts of various projects. However, the Canadian nuclear establishment (CNL, CNSC, AECL, and NRCAN) are trying to have any Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) that produce less than 200 megawatts of heat exempted from impact assessment. All reactors, regardless of size, produce every type of post-fission radioactive waste and will leave behind a radioactive legacy that will last for many thousands of years. Exempting any such reactors from impact assessment will deprive indigenous people of their basic rights to question the plans of the proponents, to challenge their assumptions, and to learn of the risks

7) Lack of adequate Canadian Government Policy on Radioactive Waste of any kind

There is no explicit Canadian government policy on the subject of radioactive waste of any kind. A 143-word Radioactive Waste Policy Framework posted on the web site of the Canadian Ministry of Natural Resources (NRCAN) is lacking in substance, and says nothing about post-fission radioactive wastes other than irradiated nuclear fuel. Moreover, while there is a law (the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act) addressing the long term management of irradiated nuclear fuel, there is no government policy to govern the manner in which the law is implemented by an industry-owned organization called the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) empowered by the government to implement an industry-formulated “solution”. In effect, the government of Canada has abdicated responsibility for decisions on the storage and transportation of radioactive waste to the Canadian nuclear establishment, including the industry-captured nuclear regulator CNSC (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission). We urge Canada to initiate extensive consultations with First Nations and other Canadians to formulate a responsible radwaste policy.

8) Five principles of radioactive waste management espoused by First Nations

The Alliance of the Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus has produced a Joint Declaration on the storage and transport of Radioactive waste containing five fundamental principles that we feel are essential to safeguard the rights of future generations. These five basic principles are detailed on the following page. They were formulated in May of 2017.

ANISHINABEK/IROQUOIS ALLIANCE

Joint Declaration *[May 2017]*

1. No Abandonment: Radioactive waste materials are damaging to living things. Many of these materials remain dangerous for tens of thousands of years or even longer. They must be kept out of the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the land we live on for many generations to come. The forces of Mother Earth are powerful and unpredictable and no human-made structures can be counted on to resist those forces forever. **Such dangerous materials cannot be abandoned and forgotten.**

2. Monitored and Retrievable Storage: Continuous guardianship of nuclear waste material is needed. This means long-term monitoring and retrievable storage. Information and resources must be passed on from one generation to the next so that our grandchildren's grandchildren will be able to detect any signs of leakage of radioactive waste materials and protect themselves. **They need to know how to fix such leaks as soon as they happen.**

3. Better Containment, More Packaging: Cost and profit must never be the basis for long-term radioactive waste management. Paying a higher price for better containment today will help prevent much greater costs in the future when containment fails. Such failure will include irreparable environmental damage and radiation-induced diseases. **The right kinds of packaging should be designed to make it easier to monitor, retrieve, and repackage** insecure portions of the waste inventory as needed, for centuries to come.

4. Away from Major Water Bodies: Rivers and lakes are the blood and the lungs of Mother Earth. When we contaminate our waterways, we are poisoning life itself. That is why **radioactive waste must not be stored beside major water bodies for the long-term.** Yet this is exactly what is being planned at five locations in Canada: Kincardine on Lake Huron, Port Hope near Lake Ontario, Pinawa beside the Winnipeg River, and Chalk River and Rolphton beside the Ottawa River.

5. No Imports or Exports: The import and export of nuclear wastes over public roads and bridges should be forbidden except in truly exceptional cases after full consultation with all whose lands and waters are being put at risk. In particular, the planned shipment of highly radioactive liquid from Chalk River to South Carolina should not be allowed because it can be down-blended and solidified on site at Chalk River. **Transport of nuclear waste should be strictly limited and decided on a case-by-case basis with full consultation with all those affected.**