

Many Canadians concerned with ‘gigantic’ Chalk River radioactive waste mound, says reader

Letter by Lynn Jones, *The Hill Times*, Monday June 10 2019
www.ccnr.org/Lynn_Jones_ltr_2019.pdf

Re: “Fight over Ottawa River nuclear waste dump getting political, but Liberals downriver standing behind the project – or staying quiet,” (*The Hill Times*, June 10, p.1). Thank you for your excellent coverage of the Chalk River nuclear waste problem in the June 10 issue of *The Hill Times*. [See the June 10 article at www.ccnr.org/Hill_Times_art_June_10_2019.pdf]

The comment by Liberal MP Andrew Leslie begs a response. Mr. Leslie is quoted as stating, "Our nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is peer-reviewed and world-renowned. It always puts safety first."

The CNSC is perceived to be a "captured" regulator that promotes projects it is charged with regulating, according to Canada's Expert Panel on EA reform in its April 2017 report [Building Common Ground](#). In January 2018, civil society groups documented what they say are numerous examples of CNSC's mishandling of environmental assessments for nuclear waste disposal projects in [Environmental Petition 413](#) to the auditor general of Canada.

The federal environment commissioner was quoted as saying "the CNSC was quite difficult to work with and aggressive with auditors" in the June 2017 report of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, "[The Nuclear Sector at a Crossroads](#)".

A recent nuclear industry publication touting Canada as the place to come to develop small modular nuclear reactors mentions its "[benign regulatory environment](#)" as an important advantage.

For all of the above reasons, many Canadians do not share Mr. Leslie's confidence in the CNSC and are very concerned that it will have the final say in whether or not the gigantic Chalk River nuclear waste mound gets the go-ahead.

Lynn Jones, Ottawa, Ont.

Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area

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