

Resolution to Stop the Shipment of Radioactive Steam Generators on the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence

- WHEREAS** Bruce Power is engaged in a multibillion dollar refurbishment project involving several of the eight Bruce nuclear reactors sited on Lake Huron;
- WHEREAS** this refurbishment project involves the removal and replacement of thousands of corroded and radioactively contaminated tubes and pipes in the primary cooling circuits of the affected reactors, which will remain on-site as radioactive wastes;
- WHEREAS** the refurbishment also involves the removal and replacement of 32 huge radioactive steam generators, each weighing approximately 100 tonnes, each about the size of a school bus, and each containing thousands of radioactively contaminated pipes which carried primary coolant from the core of the nuclear reactor;
- WHEREAS** the pipes inside the old steam generators are contaminated with radioactive fission products such as cobalt-60 and cesium-137, with radioactive actinides such as plutonium, americium, and curium, and with radioactive activation products such as tritium (hydrogen-3) and carbon-14;
- WHEREAS** the radioactive contaminants inside the old steam generators include alpha-emitters, beta-emitters and gamma-emitters, some of which have half-lives measured in decades, centuries or even millennia;
- WHEREAS** the decontamination efforts carried out by Bruce Power have not succeeded in removing all radioactive contamination from these old steam generators;
- WHEREAS** Bruce Power has signed a contract with the Studsvik company in Sweden to receive and dismantle 32 of these old radioactive steam generators from the Bruce Nuclear Complex, to recycle as much of the less contaminated metal as possible for commercial use as scrap metal (up to 90 percent of the total metal in the steam generators), and to return the more contaminated portions to Bruce Power to be stored as radioactive waste;
- WHEREAS** the recycling of radioactive materials from nuclear reactors as scrap metal for commercial use should not be countenanced or encouraged;
- WHEREAS** Bruce Power has announced that it intends to ship the old steam generators through the Great Lakes, down the St. Lawrence River, and across the Atlantic Ocean to Studsvik in Sweden;
- WHEREAS** shipping radioactive waste from nuclear reactors through the Great Lakes is a practice which should not be allowed because of the potential for long-lived radioactive contamination;
- WHEREAS** the stigma attached to shipments of radioactive waste from reactors will affect people's peace of mind and property values along the transportation route, especially if an accident involving those shipments were to occur;

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WHEREAS the shipment of old steam generators through the Great Lakes will set a dangerous precedent for other shipments of radioactive reactor waste materials in future;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River system together comprise close to 20% of the world's surface freshwater; and are a source of drinking water for over 40 million people and a \$4 billion fisheries; and which support an amazingly diverse and fragile ecosystem;

WHEREAS the Great Lakes are currently compromised by radioactive contamination through routine emissions and accidental releases at upwards of 50 nuclear sites.; this radioactive burden continues to this day and should not be compounded and endorsed by radioactive steam generator shipments.;

WHEREAS Bruce Power's plan for transporting radioactive steam generators to Sweden has never come under public scrutiny with consultation, either by citizens and local governments along the trucking and shipping routes, or by provincial, state or national governments, or by Native American Indian tribal peoples of the USA, or by the several nations of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, and the sovereign governments of Aboriginal peoples living beside treaty and traditional ancestral waterways of the proposed Great Lakes / St.-Lawrence route, or by international bodies such as the International Joint Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the organizations listed below:

- (1) are opposed in principle to any shipment through the Great Lakes of radioactive waste or radioactively contaminated equipment from the decommissioning, refurbishment, or routine operation of nuclear reactors;***
- (2) urge the governments of Canada and the U.S.A., as well as the indigenous and sovereign governments of Native American Indian tribal peoples of the USA, and the several nations of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, and the Aboriginal peoples living beside treaty and traditional ancestral waterways of the proposed Great Lakes / St.-Lawrence router, to insist that the shipment of old nuclear steam generators through the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River not take place;***
- (3) urge the governments to recognize used nuclear steam generators as radioactive waste; they have always been regarded as radioactive waste and should always be regarded as radioactive waste.***
- (4) urge that these authorities declare that radioactive wastes and radioactively contaminated equipment from decommissioned or refurbished nuclear reactors, or from routine operation of nuclear reactors, shall not be allowed to be shipped through or trucked alongside the Great Lakes or the St. Lawrence River.***