

The Inverhuron Committee Newsletter, May 22, 2018

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* U.S. Congress passes amendment to oppose "the permanent or long-term storage of spent fuel or other radioactive waste near the Great Lakes".



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The Inverhuron Committee

Dear Inverhuron Residents:

Welcome back all seasonal residents. We begin to see more cottages open and Inverhuron residents, both permanent and seasonal, out and about on the streets and in the stores.

We are so fortunate to have our little hamlet that is populated by long-time friends and family!

The Inverhuron Committee members want to take the opportunity now to inform our residents of activities related to the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) project to build a low and intermediate level nuclear waste repository at the Bruce Power nuclear site along the shore of Lake Huron.

We did not interface directly with the government in the past year on this project as the final decision has been in a holding pattern, due to the fact that Catherine McKenna, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, instructed the proponent, OPG, to spend

as much time as required to consult and work with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) in order to gain their approval for their project. Minister McKenna has said that the project will not go forward without the stamp of approval of the Saugeen Nation. Meetings have been held all fall, winter and spring and it has been indicated that this process could be of a long duration.

A new nuclear waste project has gained attention as well. A Canadian Nuclear Laboratory project has come to the attention of the Indigenous population and the Mayors of Quebec. This project, near Chalk River, involves the near surface burial of low and intermediate level waste from the laboratory. This project proposal was tabled in March 2016 but opposition has grown.

In the meantime, the OPG project and the more recent Chalk River repository project have remained in the news due to a variety of events, political interventions and media interviews.

These include:

- A demonstration at Queen's Park on October 9, 2017 by First Nations and Environmental Groups. The message was that they "remain steadfast in their opposition to a waste repository at the Bruce nuclear facility". Indeed, the waste generated by the nuclear industry and what is to be done with the waste afterward needs tighter control and regulation.
- On November 30, 2017, 104 of the members of the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Cities Initiative sent a letter to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change reiterating their request that she reject the proposal by OPG to build a repository at the Bruce site.
- On January 18, 2018, Patrick Madahbee, Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, representing 40 communities and 65,000 people, expressed his concern about the Canadian Nuclear Laboratory proposal to build a near surface waste permanent storage site at Chalk River, citing the project as "insanity".
- On April 23, 2018 Chief Madahbee was interviewed on CBC The Current, explaining that he would be representing 40 native communities across Ontario, as part of the Indigenous leaders meeting at the United Nations in New York City to highlight their concerns which would include dealing with nuclear waste.
- On April 26, 2018, Municipal officials of 82 Quebec Municipalities passed a resolution unanimously to oppose the permanent disposal of nuclear waste at Chalk River.

- On May 11, 2018, the strongest of all actions was taken by the United States Congress to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2018 to oppose "the permanent or long-term storage of spent fuel or other radioactive waste near the Great Lakes". This amendment was passed by a vote of 340-72 and requests that Canada adheres to this policy as well. This resolution will now proceed to the United States Senate. It is notable that the Michigan delegation was the proposer and this amendment, with the lead proponent, Representative Fred Upton, a Republican and Representative Debbie Dingell, a Democrat.

We hope that all of the above actions will have an impact on the decision to be taken by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Other projects of note:

- The NWMO Western Waste Management Facility requested an extension to their license and an approval to build up to 24 more buildings on site has been approved by the CNSC for 10 years.
- Bruce Power has requested a license to refurbish 6 reactors at the Bruce Nuclear site in order to extend their operation for another 40 years. A Hearing on this project is scheduled in Kincardine on May 31.
- The Ontario Government sent out to consultation a Master Plan for Provincial Nuclear Emergencies. The Inverhuron Committee submitted a letter to indicate that the Plan was not robust enough and did not have sufficient protection for residents in Inverhuron. According to the instructions, we will be required to "shelter-in-place" but many of our homes are not sufficiently insulated. Eugene Bourgeois continues to work on this issue.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

In order to maintain our activities, The Inverhuron Committee needs sustaining funds to cover insurance, our website and limited expense items.

Recently, the members themselves have been covering these costs.

If you are able to give a donation, we would appreciate your help.

Please donate by mailing a cheque to The Inverhuron Committee, c/o Marti McFadzean, 261 Victoria Street, R.R.2, Inverhuron, N0G 2T0. You can also donate by credit card at www.inverhuroncommittee.ca or by electronic transfer to

theinverhuroncommittee2016@gmail.com. The security question for the transfer is sandcastle.

Please continue to share information on the proposed nuclear dump with elected officials in your area and visit us on Facebook and on our website.

If you wish more information contact the members of The Inverhuron Committee.

The Inverhuron Committee Inc.

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