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Wednesday, August 10, 2005

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Paul Martin  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Honourable Prime Minister:

Re: Transportation of Nuclear Waste

Please find enclosed a certified true copy of Resolution No.2005-242 as adopted by City Council at the last regular meeting held August 8, 2005 regarding their opposition to the transportation of nuclear waste anywhere near or through the City of Temiskaming Shores.

I trust the resolution is self-explanatory and thank you for the attention you will give this very important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzanne Weiss".

Suzanne Weiss  
Municipal Clerk  
Enclosure

c.c.: Premier Dalton McGuinty  
Hon. John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources  
Hon. Stéphane Dion, Minister of Environment  
Hon. Jean-C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
Hon. David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources  
Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment  
Hon. Harinder Takhar, Minister of Transportation  
Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Serving the communities of Dymond, Haileybury and New Liskeard



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF TEMISKAMING SHORES  
REGULAR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING  
August 8, 2005

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 2005-242

Moved by: Councillor Wells

Seconded by: Councillor Hughes

Whereas the Nuclear Waste Act 2002 created a Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) comprised of the major producers and owners of high level nuclear fuel waste (Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec and New Brunswick Power);

And whereas the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act gave the NWMO a three-year mandate to choose between (a) "deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield"; (b) "storage at nuclear sites"; and (c) "centralized storage, either above or below ground" with the NWMO required to make its final recommendation to the federal government by November 15, 2005;

And whereas the NWMO's May 2005 draft recommendation is a fourth option called "Adaptive Phased Management" which has as its key characteristic a "deep geological repository in suitable rock formations" and which combines all three options in a 300-year phased approach moving from storage at nuclear plants, to centralized storage, and finally to deep rock disposal;

And whereas in the first phase of the NWMO's plan a centralized site would be selected with rock formation allowing shallow underground storage, an underground research laboratory, and a deep geological repository and this site would therefore be in either the Canadian Shield or an area with Ordovician sedimentary rock (for example, south-western Ontario);

And whereas communities in northern Ontario have previous experience with proposals to bury nuclear waste in northern Ontario, dating back to 25 years of investment by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited in the "concept" of geological disposal in the Canadian Shield of northern Ontario, which included "investigation" of rock formations in the vicinity of the communities of Massey in northeastern Ontario and Atikokan in northwestern Ontario;

And whereas high level radioactive waste (also known as irradiated or spent fuel) is the used uranium fuel from nuclear power and at the end of 2004 there were about 1.9 million fuel bundles at Canadian nuclear facilities (about 45,000 metric tonnes) and without an early nuclear phase-out, an additional 2 million fuel bundles will be produced in the remaining lifetime of already built reactors;

And whereas high level radioactive waste contains over 100 different radioactive isotopes and even low doses of radiation emitted by the waste can cause cancer, birth defects and other health problems;

And whereas nuclear waste is lethal and must be strictly isolated from the environment for a million years and if the wastes leak into the environment, the radioactive elements will contaminate the soil, water and air;

And whereas Temiskaming Shores does not have adequately trained emergency response personnel or equipment to cope with a radiological disaster that could occur as a result of high-level radioactive waste transportation through Temiskaming Shores;

And whereas property values are likely to fall, attraction of new business is likely to decrease, and improvement of our community may become difficult if not impossible should high-level radioactive waste be transported through Temiskaming Shores;

And whereas nuclear reactors will continue to generate and store high-level nuclear waste on-site for decades into the future, and the waste shipments will take place over several decades, which will provide no relief of negative effects on communities along transportation routes for the foreseeable future;

And whereas each shipment of high-level nuclear waste through urban population centers and agricultural areas would be at risk of terrorist attack or severe accident;

And whereas we generally oppose radioactive waste transportation through Temiskaming Shores;

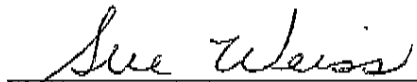
Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the City of Temiskaming Shores is on record as opposing any and all radioactive waste transportation near or through Temiskaming Shores bound for any centralized storage facility or geological repository;

And further be it resolved that the Council of the City of Temiskaming Shores supports the creation of an independent commission involving the public and all levels of government (municipal, provincial and federal) to re-examine our nation's radioactive waste management options and report to each level of government, including a body of the federal Parliament, on its findings;

And further be it resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Federal Ministers of Environment, Transportation and Natural Resources, the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Ministers of Northern Development and Mines, Transportation and the Environment, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, and to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Certified true copy

  
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Suzanne Weiss  
Municipal Clerk