

August 4, 2017

From: Ottawa Public Health

To: Nicole Frigault, Environmental Assessment Specialist  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

By email: [cpsc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cpsc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca)

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility - Public Commenting Process

CEAA Reference number: 80122

Hello Ms Frigault,

Please find attached comments from Ottawa Public Health related to the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Site in Deep River, Ontario (CEAR Reference # 80122).

A hard copy of the letter will be sent by mail.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns as part of the public commenting process.

Feel free to contact Dr. Levy directly if you have any questions or would like clarification on our comments.

Regards,

Sharon Wing  
On behalf of Dr. Isra Levy  
Medical Officer of Health | Médecin chef en santé publique  
Ottawa Public Health | Santé publique Ottawa

August 4, 2017

Nicole Frigault  
Environmental Assessment Specialist  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
P.O. Box 1046 Station B  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

**RE: Ottawa Public Health comments on proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories site at Chalk River**

Dear Ms. Frigault,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the City of Ottawa in order to express Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) support for improved environmental management of Government of Canada legacy waste liabilities, in this instance at the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Chalk River site. At the same time, I am expressing our concern for the City of Ottawa to receive timely and accurate information about any spills or emergency events that could affect residents of the City of Ottawa as Ottawa derives the majority of its drinking water from the Ottawa River.

While Ontario's *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) does not provide authority to make demands in respect of a project not being geographically located in the City of Ottawa Health Unit and while the MOH is not the principal government authority in respect of surface disposal facilities, the MOH does have interest from a public health perspective in that upstream events may adversely impact the supply of drinking water to Ottawa residents. This issue is related to safe drinking water requirements expressed in the Ontario Public Health Standards under the HPPA, including the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Protocol, 2015 and the Drinking Water Protocol, 2014.

I have been made aware that the City of Ottawa is requesting improvements to the notification protocol to better notify downstream users of all spills from this facility. We support this request as it will enable the City of Ottawa to better notify residents and activate emergency response plans as needed. This notification should include relevant details and be provided in a timely manner. OPH endorses this request as it will help with my responsibilities as the MOH in such circumstances, including ensuring appropriate drinking water advisories are in place and adequately communicated.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. I would be pleased to have you contact us should you wish to discuss my comments further.

Sincerely yours,  
Signature Redacted

I.G.Levy, MBBCh, MSc, FRCPC, FACPM  
Medical Officer of Health / Médecin chef en santé publique

cc: Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
Mr. Stephen Willis, General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, City of Ottawa  
Mr. Kevin Wylie, General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, City of Ottawa

