

June 1, 2023

Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources

Dear Sirs:

**Re. Response to Canada’s Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning (2023)
Government of Canada Role in Developing the Radioactive Waste Management Strategy**

Over 100 civil society organizations have signed letters sent to you since the November 2020 launch of the review of Canada’s radioactive waste policy framework, setting out expectations for a sound, comprehensive and responsible waste policy. On specific points, such as the need for an independent, arm’s length oversight body, and a ban on the extraction of plutonium from nuclear fuel waste, you have received thousands of communications. Hundreds of Canadians and Canadian organizations contributed extensively to the radioactive waste policy review.

Radioactive Waste Policy

We write today to express our profound disappointment in [Canada’s Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning](#) (the Policy) released on March 31st. We urge you – despite our disappointment – to engage again with Canadians in the establishment of a detailed strategy for radioactive waste management in Canada.

Canada’s [new policy](#) leaves the nuclear industry in charge and the public and the environment at risk. Key priorities were omitted, including the establishment of a national oversight body, a ban on the reprocessing of nuclear fuel waste to extract plutonium, and a commitment to keep radioactive waste isolated from the biosphere.

Radioactive Waste Strategies

On February 8, 2021, 100 civil society organizations wrote expressing our strong concern and disagreement with NRCan’s decision to ask the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to lead the development of an “integrated strategy for radioactive waste”. In that letter, we set out our expectations for the review of Canada’s radioactive waste policies and the development of radioactive waste management strategies.

Minister O’Regan was clear that the product of the NWMO’s exercise was to be provided for review and consideration by the Government. **We fully understand and accept industry having input into Canada’s radioactive waste management strategy; we fully reject any notion that industry determines the strategy. That is the work of Government.**

On July 4th the NWMO [announced](#) that it had submitted to you its “[recommendations](#)” for an Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste. Further to the commitments made by the office of the Minister of Natural Resources, we now await your invitation to dialogue on this important matter.

We urge you to ensure the full engagement of the Canadian public and Indigenous peoples with the Government in developing Canada's strategy for radioactive waste management.

Thank you for your consideration. We await your reply with positive expectations.

Endorsed by the following groups:

[More endorsers to come! Click [HERE](#) by Sunday July 9th to sign on!]

Action Climat Outaouais (ACO)
Artistes pour la Paix
Avalon Chapter Council of Canadians
Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
Canadian Environmental Law Association
Citizen Action to Protect the Environment
Citizen for Nuclear Free Society
Citizens' Network on Waste Management
Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB)
Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area
Council of Canadians Fredericton Chapter
Council of Canadians: Kitchissippi-Ottawa Valley
development and peace
Edmonton Small Press Association
HRM Chapter Council of Canadians
Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
Just Transition Canada
Montréal for a World BEYOND War
North Bay Peace Alliance
North West Nuclear Watch
Northwatch
Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
Ontario Clean Air Alliance
Peterborough Pollinators
Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee
POW
Protect Our Waterways (South Bruce)
Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association Inc.
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive
Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive
Regroupement Vigilance Hydrocarbures Québec
RVHQ
Science for Peace
Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!)
Sierra Club Foundation, Canadian Environmental Network
We the Nuclear Free North
York Region Environmental Alliance
Yukoners Concerned

Please direct reply correspondence to nuclearwastewatch@gmail.com for distribution to the signators.

cc. John Hannaford, Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Mollie Johnson, Associate Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada
Jim Delaney, Director, Uranium and Radioactive Waste Division, Natural Resources Canada
Members of Federal Cabinet and Federal Critics

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