

Natural Resources Canada

WASTE DISPOSAL POLICY Review March 24, 2021 Zoom Meeting.

Comments by [REDACTED] (Montreal) concerned Canadian.

We need to know.

1. What do you feel are important policy considerations that should influence the choice of disposal approaches by waste owners and should be considered as part of Canada's radioactive waste policy?

Policy should include:

#1* Emergency measures, mitigation and adaptation measures on a nuclear waste leak, incident or event into the environment (air, water and soil) are not covered in the policy and should be included; **Emergency Response plans need to be developed at these nuclear waste site locations; Currently, nuclear waste pose a significant threat at all locations in Canada if emergency response plans are not sufficiently developed as per a detailed risk assessment for potential leaks into the environment.**

Comparatively, if we were not prepared for a pandemic in 2020, we will be less prepared for a nuclear waste incident in the environment (leak, fire, explosion, etc.).

Policy should include:

#2 * Nuclear waste and radioactive health effects and toxicology, on the general population and occupational exposed workers as it is not covered specifically for nuclear waste and it should be included in this policy.

COMMENT: #3. Nuclear waste is not recyclable; contrary to what NRCan believes.

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2. What should be the roles and responsibilities of government, the regulator, and waste owners with regards to radioactive waste disposal facilities, including:

- Funding,
- Closure of a disposal facility and its institutional control, and
- Indigenous and Public Engagement and involvement in site selection and post-closure?

My comments:

#3 * Implement an independent federal body to assess the health and safety risks of nuclear waste, and not rely on private companies to decide what nuclear waste industry should be allowed to do in terms of their own waste risk assessments.

#4* the federal government should not let Private companies self-govern themselves on what they do with the nuclear waste they are responsible for; self-compliance is insufficient.

#5 * Companies should not influence what happens to Canadian nuclear waste, because there is a conflict of interest as government's role is to protect the general public and workers.

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