



Oral presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
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**Mémoire de
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In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)

Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)

Application from the CNL to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility

Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour autoriser la construction d'une installation de gestion des déchets près de la surface

**Commission Public Hearing
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2**

May and June 2022

Mai et juin 2022

Living for 75 years as a seasonal resident on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, 7 km downstream from CNL and the site of the NSDF, I am filled with trepidation at the thought of nuclear waste stored above ground in this area. Our cottage was constructed with rough lumber by Sheenboro carpenters in the early 50's and is perched on rocks at the corners. Every summer the earth beneath us shakes more than once. Dishes rattle and the floor sways slightly as the earth moves. The river is a fault line, the West Quebec Seismic Fault. Could Oiseau Rock collapse? Any structure built here could be severely shaken or split apart. Severity or timing of quakes cannot be predicted with much accuracy.

In 1954 we experienced two hurricanes. The first was in late August, the tail-end of hurricane Carol. Trees crossed, the now Tripp Road, like match sticks for a few km. We tried to cut our way out with hand saws, but were cottage bound for days until men with chainsaws arrived. Water rose 30 ft. up our 60 ft. embankment. The rise was due to wind, 7 ft. waves as well as water released from Des Joachim's dam. This was a hurricane lacking full force. What might have happened in a more violent one? With contaminated soil and structures still unremoved or contained at CNL and extreme weather events on the increase, the thought of nuclear waste stored above ground near habitation is terrifying.

Every summer we hear planes from Petawawa military grounds, flying high and low above the pines, carrying military personnel on training flights. We hear explosions that shake the ground and have broken windows in the past. In our present volatile world with constant threat from Russia, I fear the effects of war or error on any nuclear installation: SMR, Candu reactor or NSDF. All are vulnerable to severe damage, accidental or planned.

The location of the NSDF is surely the result of an easy, cheap solution for nuclear waste. Already Canada's Capital and the millions who live in the Ottawa Valley have experience more than their share of cancers. Why does the IAEA recommend above ground waste disposal for only low-level waste? Medium and high-level waste must be stored underground. Our NSDF will contain a poorly documented mixture of waste containing cobalt 60 (medium-level waste), tritium, strontium 90, four types of plutonium, 80 tons of uranium rendering this site hazardous for 100,000 years.

This inappropriate and relatively easy location on a hillside with a 30% slope lacks forethought or planning. It is surrounded on three sides by wetlands, is close to an already contaminated lake that drains into the Ottawa River. In a time of climate crisis and flood risk, the high water table in this area is problematic. The removal of 33 hectares of mature forest containing endangered whip-poor-wills, bats and other birds makes no sense. It will promote erosion and endanger the NSDF.

No leakage of nuclear waste is acceptable for human health or the health of the environment. No added radiation is acceptable above natural radiation and radiation needed to treat disease. Water treatment planned for runoff from the mound cannot remove all contaminants that flow by pipe to Perch Lake and eventually into the Ottawa River. Contaminants will eventually enter fish and our drinking water.

Why doesn't the CNFC put public hearings on hold, until the Draft Plan for Nuclear Waste is finalized and the Auditor General's report published? It has been suggested that the cost of the NSDF will turn out to be five times the 750, 000, 000 quoted. The NSDF isn't big enough. Will we need to build more? Where? What will we do with new waste constantly created by CNL and new SMR's? Why have we not considered the magnificent view from the top of Oiseau Rock? Deforestation and this NSDF the breadth of seven NHL hockey rinks will be an ugly monstrosity on the landscape.

Georgina Bartos