

From: [Guy Desjardins](#)
To: [Monique Ouellet](#)
Subject: FW: A Call for Resolutions to Protect the Ottawa River
Date: April-01-19 10:26:29 AM
Attachments: [MRC Pontiac Resolution.pdf](#)
[Chalk River & Rolphton Resolution.pdf](#)

From: Johanna Echlin [j.echlin@sympatico.ca]
Sent: March-28-19 1:46 PM
To: Guy Desjardins; Carl Grimard; Christian Simard; samuel cardarelli; Don Bouchard; Michel Levert; Mario Zanth; Andre J Lalonde; Diane Choiniere
Cc: Helen Collier
Subject: A Call for Resolutions to Protect the Ottawa River

Dear Mayor Desjardins and Councillors,

Congratulations on your election to the municipal council of the City of Clarence Rockland. We wish you well as you take on the stewardship of your municipality together with the ensuing responsibilities and challenges.

We are writing to follow up on the letters that we sent to you last fall during the campaign. In our September letter, we asked you to consider urging your Council to take action on the following issues:

1. **Pass a resolution to oppose Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' nuclear waste proposals as they currently stand for Chalk River and Rolphton, Ontario, and**
2. **Oppose the importation of nuclear waste to Chalk River from other locations. (Re: #2 - We note that Clarence Rockland adopted a resolution in October 2017.)**

We urge you to join the 135 municipal councils from Sheenboro to Montreal on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River who have passed resolutions questioning CNL's nuclear waste proposals. East Hawkesbury has adopted a resolution in opposition to CNL's current Chalk River AND Rolphton proposals. Both Alfred and Plantagenet's and Clarence Rockland's resolutions have opposed more radioactive waste being brought to Chalk River for storage or disposal.

We write again to highlight our grave concerns regarding these ill-conceived plans and to provide more current information regarding the above proposals for your consideration.

Why we object to current plans at Chalk River and Rolphton, ON

These projects could result in the radioactive contamination of the Ottawa River, the source of drinking water for millions of Canadians. Both proposals have been denounced by retired nuclear scientists, citizens' groups and First Nations. Neither of these proposals is in compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards and should **NOT** be

approved.

Other key points include:

Protection of the Ottawa River: Radioactive materials with half-lives of thousands of years should **NEVER** be situated near major waterways or near the surface where the biosphere cannot be fully protected from contamination. IAEA standards require that long-lived radioactive wastes be disposed of far from water bodies and in stable rock below the earth's surface.

Liability: It is important to note that CNL will have no liability in the event that there are problems in the future with either the NSDF or with the entombed reactor. Canadian taxpayers would bear full financial responsibility and the horrific consequences of radioactive contamination of the Ottawa River for future generations.

Transportation of nuclear waste: Recently, CNL announced that in the future over 2,000 shipments of low-, intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste will be making their way via our highways from the Whiteshell nuclear reactor in Manitoba to Chalk River. Their plan is to consolidate all federally owned radioactive waste at Chalk River. It is anticipated that there will be more radioactive waste coming from other locations as well

We hope your Council will oppose the transport of radioactive and other lethal wastes on highways through our communities until a safer plan and location can be found for managing these wastes.

For more background on these issues, see below:

BACKGROUND: NUCLEAR WASTE PLANS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY

In conclusion, we ask you to:

1. raise with your Council the issues of the NSDF at Chalk River, the Rolphton decommissioning proposal and the plan to transport nuclear waste to Chalk River.
2. join us in calling for CNL's responsible management of Canada's radioactive waste in facilities that comply with IAEA standards which are designed to manage radioactive waste in the best possible way. Our resources must be protected by a state-of-the-art facility for radioactive nuclear waste storage or disposal at a location at least 25 kilometres from the Ottawa River.
3. work towards having your Council pass resolutions to oppose CNL's proposals for Chalk River and Rolphton as they currently stand and oppose the importation of nuclear waste to Chalk River from other locations.

Please forward any resolutions your Council may adopt to me, Johanna Echlin, Old Fort

William Cottagers' Association/OFWCA, (j.echlin@sympatico.ca). OFWCA will be forwarding all resolutions received from municipalities to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission during the next public comment period. Two sample resolutions can be found as attachments to this email.

We also recommend that your Council write to your MP and MPP to express opposition and request that they represent the views of your municipality in their respective levels of government.

Please note that we are not taking issue with CNL's ongoing work, but only with where and how the nuclear radioactive waste is managed. We strongly believe that building a state-of-the-art facility would provide greater safeguards against radioactive contamination of our drinking water, be a greater stimulus to the local economy, and increase the number of long-term jobs.

If you would like to discuss this matter further or would like more information from independent experts, we would be pleased to assist you. For further information, please refer to the links at the end of this email.

Thank you for taking action on these vital issues. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Johanna Echlin

j.echlin@sympatico.ca

Old Fort William Cottagers' Association

On behalf of:

Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (CCRCA)

Coalition Against Nuclear Dumps on the Ottawa River (CANDOR)

Old Fort William Cottagers' Association (OFWCA)

Petawawa Point Cottagers Association (PPCA)

BACKGROUND: NUCLEAR WASTE PLANS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY

Near Surface Disposal Facility at Chalk River, Ontario

The Harper government radically restructured Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) in 2015, creating a subsidiary called Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and contracting a multinational consortium (CNEA) to operate the subsidiary. We would point out that SNC

Lavalin, currently in the news, is one of the four members in this consortium operating CNL.

The contract with the consortium to manage and operate CNL includes the requirement to “seek the fastest, most cost-effective means” to dispose of radioactive waste which has been accumulating at Chalk River and other federal nuclear sites during the past 70 years.

CNL’s proposed solution is to build an 'engineered' containment mound that is located less than a kilometre from the Ottawa River. CNL has claimed that only "low-level" radioactive waste will be disposed of in this mound, however this "low-level" radioactive waste includes some **very long-lived radioactive material such as radioactive uranium, plutonium, cesium, strontium, iodine and tritium that will remain hazardous for more than 100,000 years**. Also, much of the low-level waste would be mixed with intermediate-level waste, raising concerns about how CNL will dispose of this radioactive material as it would be virtually impossible to separate.

CNL will receive more than **\$600 million dollars of taxpayers’ money** to construct the mound.

According to CNL’s current plans, this mound would:

- be 65 to 80 feet high and cover an area of 27 acres.
- contain one million cubic metres of radioactive nuclear waste that will be contained in a ‘geomembrane’ and covered over by a combination of sand, stone, gravel and top soil.
- contain radioactive and other wastes transported from decommissioned nuclear sites across Canada.
- be located directly over an active earthquake zone above porous and fractured rock.
- be constructed beside a small lake which drains directly into the Ottawa River through a small creek.

CNL claims that there is scientific certainty that the ‘geomembrane’ and its earthen covering would endure for hundreds of years. However, independent scientists contracted by the Ottawa Riverkeeper assert there is a lack of evidence to support this claim.

CNL plans to leave portions of the mound open to the elements for over 50 years until the entire structure is covered over. During that time, radioactive material would mix with precipitation creating a continuous volume of contaminated water that would be very difficult to capture and treat, despite the existence of a water treatment plant that could not remove all radioactive material such as tritium. This **contaminated water would be released into the soil and ground water and make its way back to the Ottawa River**. In addition, **climate change** brings unpredictable, catastrophic weather that could also cause permanent radioactive contamination of the Ottawa River. Last September alone, there were four devastating tornadoes in one day in Ontario and Quebec along the Ottawa River.

Retired AECL senior nuclear scientists have raised many serious concerns regarding this proposal in comments submitted regarding CNL’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement as part of the environmental assessment that is ongoing. For example, in his submission (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p80122/119034E.pdf>), retired scientist Dr. J.R. Walker states that the NSDF proposal “employs inadequate technology and is problematically located” and “does not meet regulatory requirements with respect to the

health and safety of persons and the protection of the environment.” He points out **eleven times** that the wastes will be hazardous for more than 100,000 years and are therefore completely inappropriate for disposal in a facility above the ground.

Decommissioning of the Nuclear Reactor at Rolphton, Ontario

In addition to the Chalk River site, CNL is also planning an equally unacceptable radioactive decommissioning project at Rolphton, Ontario. This site is a mere **100 metres from the Ottawa River.**

CNL plans to entomb the defunct nuclear reactor without properly dealing with the radioactive water which would continue to leach into the Ottawa River through foundation cracks and the fractured rock underneath it. CNL’s Project Description itself states: “There is the potential for radionuclide releases to groundwater from the in-situ decommissioned reactor and radionuclide migration to the Ottawa River.”

This plan is referred to as “in situ” and involves covering over the existing facility with grout and concrete, contrary to standards set by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These actions would **make Rolphton a permanent nuclear waste disposal facility.** In his response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p80121/121343Epdf>), Dr. Walker points out that entombing radioactive waste lacks credibility and fails to address Canada’s international obligations. He quotes at length from the IAEA regarding the “inappropriateness of entombment.”

LINKS FOR FURTHER READING

1. [Sign the petition to protect the Ottawa and Winnipeg Rivers from radioactive waste](#)

This petition has nearly 1,500 signatures and contains more detailed information for your interest. Please pass on this petition to others who may be interested in this critical issue.

2. www.ccnr.org/GE_SNC_CKUT_2019.mp3

An eleven-minute interview by Sheila Ferrando of Dr. Gordon Edwards on CKUT McGill Radio, March 15, 2019, regarding the NSDF at Chalk River and SNC-Lavalin.

3. [Hot Garbage Grifters: SNC-Lavalin’s Plans to Turn Nuclear Waste into Long-Term Gold](https://theenergymix.com/2019/03/10/hot-garbage-grifters-snc-lavalins-plan-to-turn-nuclear-waste-into-long-term-gold/) <https://theenergymix.com/2019/03/10/hot-garbage-grifters-snc-lavalins-plan-to-turn-nuclear-waste-into-long-term-gold/> March 10, 2019 Paul McKay The Energy Mix

Corporations such as SNC-Lavalin are tapping into the billions of dollars in funds that have been set aside for decommissioning old nuclear reactors and “managing” the radioactive waste that remains dangerous for hundreds of thousands of years.

4. [Ten Things to Know about Radioactive Waste Management in Canada](https://concernedcitizens.net/2018/11/15/dix-choses-a-savoir-sur-la-gestion-des-dechets-)
<https://concernedcitizens.net/2018/11/15/dix-choses-a-savoir-sur-la-gestion-des-dechets->

[radioactifs-au-canada/](#) (English translation provided at this link)

5. Radioactive waste: Unacceptable Burdens on Future Generations

<https://www.sierraclub.ca/en/radioactive-waste-unacceptable-burdens>

Dr. Ole Hendrickson, Sierra Club Canada Foundation, posted on February 12, 2019

Articles from mainstream media:

1. [Canada has a dirty big nuclear secret at Chalk River](#)

Editorial by Eva Schacherl, Ottawa Citizen - April 23, 2018

2. [Scientists decry plan for Ontario nuclear-waste site](#)

Shawn McCarthy, Globe and Mail - June, 2017

3. [Taxpayers are getting a bad deal](#)

Iain Sherriff-Scott, The Hill Times – July 17, 2017

4. What You should Know about Nuclear Waste in Ottawa – Gatineau

<https://ecologyottawa.ca/2018/07/06/what-you-should-know-about-nuclear-waste-in-ottawa-gatineau-qa/>

Astrid Hieblinger Rempel, Ecology Ottawa, posted July 6, 2018

Fact sheets produced by Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area

[Ten things Canadians need to know about the Chalk River Mound](#)

[Ten More things to know about the Chalk River Mound](#)

[Why is there so much plutonium in the wastes at Chalk River?](#)

[How would the NSDF leak? let us count the ways](#)

[Nine quick facts about the crazy plan to entomb a nuclear reactor beside the Ottawa River](#)

Attachments: Two resolutions for your consideration