

PMD 13-P1.50

File / dossier : 8.01.07  
Date: 2013-08-07  
Edocs: 4182259

**Written Submission from**  
**Louis Bézaire**

In the Matter of

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.**

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Proposed Environmental Impact Statement  
for OPG's Deep Geological Repository  
(DGR) Project for Low and Intermediate  
Level Waste

Joint Review Panel

**September 16 to October 12, 2013**

**Mémoire de**  
**Louis Bézaire**

À l'égard de

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.**

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Étude proposée pour l'énoncé des incidences  
environnementales pour l'Installation de  
stockage de déchets radioactifs à faible et  
moyenne activité dans des couches géologiques  
profondes

Commission d'examen conjoint

**16 septembre au 12 octobre 2013**

Ladies & Gentlemen

I worked for Ontario Hydro/Ontario Power Generation (OPG) from 1973 to 2005 with my last 12 years or so as a Supervisor and First Line Manager (FLM) for Operations at the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) at the Bruce Site for the Nuclear Waste Management Division (NWMD). As well as being an FLM for Operations I was tasked to review several construction projects at the WWMF, to look at them from an operational point of view. In other words, once I assumed responsibility for these facilities, what system(s), documentation etc...would I need/recommend/want in place to facilitate procedures and control processes. I was involved with projects such as construction of additional Low Level Storage Buildings (LLSB) for storage of Low Level Waste (LLW), incinerator upgrade/replacement for volume reduction of LLW, and construction of the Dry Fuel Storage Facility for the temporary storage of spent fuel from the Bruce site. I was always impressed with the amount of engineering, science, planning, review, oversight, scheduling etc...that went into each and every project.

In my last year or so I was just starting to get involved in discussions regarding a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Low & Intermediate Level Waste (L&ILW). Because of this, I was fortunate enough to visit the Sifto Salt mine in Goderich Ontario. This visit was only an exploratory tour of the deep mining process. Knowing full well that this is the largest salt mine of its kind in Canada and admittedly knowing little about mining myself, I was thoroughly impressed. I was impressed with the depth (550M), the vastness, the tunnelling, the equipment both above & below ground, subterranean equipment delivery, the air exchange system, tunnel access, personnel movement, product removal, safety systems both above and below ground. Most surprising to this un-experienced miner was how dry and comfortable it was.

This is what OPG's proposed DGR will mimic except that it will be in limestone 680M deep, under the Bruce site on property owned by OPG. It will also be conveniently located adjacent to the existing WWMF storage site, which will lessen the need for more off-site transportation and security. The DGR project has gone through more scrutiny, by far, than any other project I have ever been involved with, and countries worldwide are interested in how we propose to manage our nuclear waste. Eminent scientists from the international community have participated in the studies and consultations, research and testing. The expertise in various fields (geology, physics, engineering, environmental science, etc.) have come together for this most important project.

A group of people in our community is very vocal, and falsely claim publicly that they speak for town residents. Members of this group make unfounded assumptions and draw rash conclusions that only serve to confuse and worry people. It is true that the concerns they raise make OPG's review process more effective, as false claims can then be refuted by fact. We need to base our decisions on science and facts not on rumour, innuendo and scaremongering. Unfortunately, this group is influenced by some outsiders who have other agendas, some of which are obviously anti-nuclear - and who are quick to use an unwary public as pawns for their own purposes.

I know that OPG and their partners are basing their decisions on hard science, engineering, facts & data backed by worldwide specialists in all related fields. Based on my experience within OPG I'm confident that all aspects of this project are being looked at thoroughly, meticulously, without exception.

Once in a DGR, the waste will be retrievable, housed in vaults 550M deeper than the deepest part of Lake Huron and in limestone that has not been disturbed for millions of years. These rock formations have been deemed by worldwide experts to be the least permeable they've encountered so far for this type of project. It's worth noting as well that, for the past 40 years, all of the L&ILW has been stored above ground approximately 2 km from the lake in warehouses, subsurface tile holes and trenches. Although the present storage site can boast an excellent safety record unsurpassed anywhere, it has always been made clear to the host community and to First Nations peoples that the present storage method was for the interim only. A permanent long-term storage facility is required.

Kincardine has agreed to host the permanent facility in the form of a DGR on the Bruce Site, and having hosted the present facility for the past 40 years, fully understands what lies ahead. Its residents have the utmost confidence that OPG will do no less than continue to operate a new DGR with the same highest regard to safety, for the worker, the public and the environment, that they have maintained over the last 40 years.

I fully support the DGR. I believe it's the right way to go. We've procrastinated long enough on too many issues. Now is the time for us to stop passing problems over for future generations to resolve. We must do better than that, and the solution lies in a DGR. .

Louis Bézaire  
FLM Operations (retired)  
WWMF/NWMD