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Written Submission from

Brockton Residents' Association

In the Matter of

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

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

Brockton Residents' Association

À l'égard de

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

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

Canada

BROCKTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Written submission to the Joint Review Panel

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Written submission to the Joint Review Panel for OPG's proposed Deep Geologic Repository project for Low and Intermediate Level Waste.

About Brockton Residents' Association

Brockton Residents' Association is an ad hoc organization formed by community-minded ratepayers of the Municipality of Brockton, Ontario. Brockton borders on the Municipality of Kincardine, the site of the proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR)[1].

Our group was formed in January 2013 to advocate for open communication and responsible, prudent decision-making in Brockton. Because of the short timespan allotted to prepare submissions, we have not completed canvassing our members about this submission, but we are confident that most share the concerns expressed herein.

Our submission is restricted to comments about the ethics of the process of engaging political support for DGR-1. We do not have sufficient expertise to speak to any other aspect of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposal.

The Municipality of Brockton and the DGR

In April 2002, OPG signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Kincardine to study options for burial of low-intermediate level nuclear waste. In April 2004, Kincardine Council passed a motion supporting a deep geologic repository. A Hosting Agreement was signed in October 2004. Under the terms of this agreement, neighbouring municipalities receive regular payments as long as they remain in support of the project. Brockton Council passed a resolution in support of DGR-1 "as well as the pending compensation plan" on September 20, 2004[2].

Brockton has been receiving regular "compensation" payments since 2005 – well before approval to construct the DGR has been given and well before the municipality has incurred any expenses related to DGR-1.

Safe disposal of nuclear waste is a national/international issue. It is an issue that transcends the nuclear industry and the municipalities surrounding the proposed disposal site. Decisions related to burial of nuclear waste are of such a magnitude that they should not be left in the hands of local representatives. We acknowledge their commitment to the community and their efforts to educate themselves about the issue, but they remain ill equipped to assess the

[1] DGR is used as the abbreviation for Deep Geologic Repository. DGR-1 refers to Ontario Power Generation's proposed project to bury low and intermediate nuclear waste near Kincardine. DGR-2 refers to Nuclear Waste Management Ontario's proposed project to bury high level radioactive waste at a site yet to be determined.

[2] Letter dated September 22, 2004 from C. Bagnato, Mayor, Municipality of Brockton, to T. Squires, Public Affairs Director, OPG.

multiple complexities of the proposal. The presumption that local officials are competent to make decisions that have such massive national and international implications is fundamentally flawed.

Moreover, the integrity of Brockton Council's decision to support the DGR -1 is compromised by its "cash for support" agreement with OPG. There are also possible conflicts of interest arising out of personal, family or business relationships with OPG. Brockton Council has also failed to consult residents independently, but has relied solely on OPG's communications processes for this purpose.

Under the terms of the hosting agreement, Brockton will receive $1.3 million in "loyalty payments" between 2005 and 2035. Brockton, like many small municipalities, is always strapped for cash and these payments can only reinforce a sense of obligation to OPG.

Concerns about "pay for support".

OPG and the nuclear industry have brought good jobs to the region and provided significant financial support to community events and organizations as part of its community involvement program. We are all grateful for this positive participation in our community. However we believe that local politicians cannot help but be influenced to favour DGR-1 as a result of the funds the municipalities have received from OPG. Although the payments to Brockton might be considered small in the larger scheme of things, they have a whiff of bribery about them.

We commend OPG for its extensive communications efforts. There have been regular newsletters, open houses, visible presence at community events, and no-visible-strings-attached support for community organizations. It is the "strings attached" nature of the hosting agreement that we take issue with.

Finally, we are concerned that the monies paid to Brockton to support the DGR-1 will influence decisions to be made by our elected officials about the DGR-2. How can future decisions *not* be influenced by these ongoing financial incentives?

Brockton Residents' Association's Recommendations

We hope that the Joint Review Panel will find that the degree of public support for DGR-1 in the adjacent municipalities has not been objectively determined, despite letters of support from municipal Councils. To address this omission we recommend the following:

- A comprehensive measurement of public opinion should be completed before any final decisions are made.
- That public opinion is measured by an entity independent of OPG, NWMO and the municipalities that are party to the hosting agreement.
- That the terms of the hosting agreement be amended to free municipalities of their obligation to support the DGR.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Iserman

On behalf of Brockton Residents' Association

August 10, 2103