

PMD 13-P1.64

File / dossier : 8.01.07
Date: 2013-08-11
Edocs: 4183925

Written Submission from
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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
Dietrich E. Lauckner

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

DGR Joint Review Panel Public Hearing: Written-Only Submission

Low and intermediate level (L&IL) radioactive waste from OPG's Bruce, Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations has been safely stored at surface level at BNPD for over forty years. The current storage facilities are considered temporary in nature until a permanent containment solution can be developed that will prevent this waste from harming future generations. Radioactive decay to safe levels of some nuclides in the waste will go on for many centuries. To protect the environment and people who might inhabit this area long after existing nuclear plants are de-commissioned and forgotten, OPG needs to dispose of the waste in a manner that is safe and sustainable for many years.

Before I retired I worked at BNPD and was involved in the processes that created this waste. I feel some responsibility to support its safe and long-term containment. To protect future generations against hazards from the radioactive waste OPG proposes to develop a Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) at the Bruce site that will contain all the L&IL radioactive waste produced by OPG stations over their lifetimes. Some reactors are being refurbished to extend their operating life. This will produce additional waste. Eventually, after the nuclear plants are decommissioned and all the L&IL waste has been placed into the DGR, the DGR will be sealed. The planned DGR would be located at about 680m depth in low permeability rock about 1km from Lake Huron. Environmental and Safety Assessments have shown that the proposed site is suitable for the safe, long-term containment of the L&IL radioactive waste and that geological events that might disturb the waste within the containment are unlikely to occur. Documentation that supports these assessments is readily available. Just google DGR.

There seems to be a concern among some home owners that property values could decline if the DGR is built. That is unlikely to happen. A more realistic scenario is that values might drop if prospective purchasers come across too many yellow signs advocating against the DGR. I am not concerned that property values will decrease due to the DGR and so today I support OPG's initiative to develop a Deep Geologic Repository at BNPD for the safe containment of low and intermediate level radioactive waste created by OPG reactor operations.

Dietrich E. Lauckner