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**Written Submission from
Gene Threndyle**

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
Gene Threndyle**

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 Hearing
Written Submission Gene Threndyle August 12th, 2013

This written submission is not intended to accompany an oral statement. This is not because I do not want to make a statement in person but because I cannot take the time off to do this. The process of trying to make any kind of statement is sufficiently complicated that somehow you have communicated to me that this is what you think I want to do. You really should work on that if you genuinely want to know what people think.

My objections are multiple. First and foremost I do not have confidence that this process is guided by anything but political expediency and a local municipal government that wants to make as much money as they can without worrying about the consequences of their actions to future decades and generations. The money that they have been offered has skewered their sense of reason.

I also have little confidence that this project will be anything but a financial boondoggle. The huge cost of these projects is always underestimated and the potential for scandal and funds being wrongly spent are too great to proceed with anything but the utmost caution. The cancelled gas plants are but the latest in these scandals in the Ontario's Energy Sector. The politicians involved walk away with their salaries intact while the rest of us pick up the pieces and the tab.

We do not know what developments in even the next 20 years may mean for the potential for these materials and what should be done with them. The most practical thing is to keep them in above ground storage. If underground storage must be the only option then the ancient rock north of Sudbury should be where we are looking to put this stuff. We know that that rock is stable and has been for literally billions of years. There are also many areas that have been disturbed by mining so that choosing them as a site for this would not impact the natural environment as greatly.

We should not be experimenting with burying such hazardous material so close to the largest amount of fresh water in the world. Contemplating this is nothing short of insanity. We know that the people who will make these decisions will not suffer any consequences if something goes wrong especially in the long term but also in the short term. It is the rest of us who will have to pay and suffer the impacts of those potential harms.

I have a summer property at Inverhuron that my family has kept there for over 40 years. I am also originally from Bruce County so I know the impact that the Energy

Sector has had on the whole community. I recently heard of someone being charge \$250 to trim a cedar hedge. This is not the wages of a gardener but that of someone working at Bruce Nuclear. How are elderly people supposed to stay in their homes if they have to pay people \$50-\$100/hour to have simple chores done around their homes?

When I was younger I worked in a furniture factory in Chesley Ontario. There were many people employed in making furniture in numerous small towns. Now they are all gone. The wages were low at those factories but people were able to live on them. Not so now because there is always the comparison to people with these overly high, energy sector wages. Proceeding with the DGR will only further that making the disparity of wages between energy sector and other business greater yet again.

I am also worried about the culture and nature of the area. Tourism is not just a business but it is also a huge part of what the Bruce Peninsula is all about. Even First Nations People used these beaches and river mouths for summer camps. Who wants to go to a beautiful beach on turquoise fresh water that is over top of a nuclear waste dump? Even if your science is right the stigma will be there just as Walkerton, 12 years after it water was poisoned, is still the town with dirty water.

Who will want to buy vacation property in Kincardine, home of the DGR for nuclear waste? What about our property values? At some point there will be no more huge energy sector wage earners who need to build their luxury homes near their work and then what will happen to land values. Keeping and maintaining these vacation properties has been both a way of life and a financial security. This project threatens both of those things.

If this project goes ahead then I sincerely hope that the decision makers involved will be personally held financially responsible for over-run and other potential problem including those that may happen 20 or more years down the road. Instead they will have their huge salaries and pensions while the rest of us suffer the consequences. We will have lost an essential thing to the character and quality of life in one of the most unique and beautiful parts of the province and the country.

I also hope that property owners, especially those like myself who are so close to this are compensated for the change to the area that this one project alone brings. For decades we put up with the danger of hydrogen sulphide gas only having that potential danger removed recently. Now we have this.

This project is too dangerous to seriously contemplate. The people deciding this should be held personally responsible for any future problems including and especially financial ones.