PMD 13-P1.97

File / dossier : 8.01.07
Date: 2013-08-13
Edocs: 4184608

Oral Statement from

Canadian Nuclear Workers Council

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

Présentation orale par

Conseil canadien des travailleurs du nucléaire

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

Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council
Presentation
To

The Joint Review Panel Public Hearing
For
Ontario Power Generation's
Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Project &
Application for a License to Prepare the Site

AUGUST 13, 2013.

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization of Unions that represent workers in all sectors of the Canadian Nuclear Industry. A list of the member Unions and the purpose and objectives of the council are attached as Appendix A & B.

We have reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) information submitted by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for the environmental assessment for this proposed project. We must say upfront that from our analysis the CNWC agree and supports the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's conclusions **THAT THIS PROJECT WILL NOT LIKELY SIGNICANTLY ADVERSLY AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT.**

CNWC member Unions are all very familiar with low and medium level radiological waste and have safely handled and stored these materials for over 40 years.

The CNWC has been kept informed of this project since its inception many years ago. Representatives of CNWC have toured the proposed DGR Site on several occasions.

CNWC affiliate, Grey-Bruce Labour Council, which represents Unions in the Grey-Bruce Area had a tour and were briefed on the DGR in late 2012. Since the tour they have been kept updated on the progress of the project.(letter attached)

We submit that all industries and households create waste. Big strides have been made in eliminating, reducing, and controlling waste in all areas. Radiological waste has been and continues to be strictly regulated. OPG and other producers of radiological waste have come a long way in reducing the amount of this type of waste over the years. Technology has improved over the years in creating means to reduce the amount of radiological waste.

The OPG Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) has been safely operated since it started operation. Radiological waste has been stored at this site for many years. We see the DGR as the next logical step in the storage process. Simply put the waste which is being safely stored above ground will be moved underground if the DGR project is approved.

OPG has operated an ongoing public information project for the DGR. Concerned citizens have been able to get answers to their concerns and questions. Many nuclear workers live in the vicinity of the DGR project and are supportive. The only negative view heard on this issue from our affiliates was that confusion has been created with the DGR-OPG and the Nuclear Waste Management Organizations (NWMO) both having active programs operating in the area at the same time. It is understandably difficult for people to keep the issues separate.

As a trade Union organization the CNWC is understanding of organizations that provide negative views' on this project. Their views are important in a democratic society. The CNWC suggests that once the public has been provided the correct information and have answers to their questions they are supportive of the DGR. We encourage the panel to weigh the views of the silent majority with the views of the vocal minority in this regard.

During our oral presentation the Panel will hear from two CNWC representatives who will provide you with a grass roots citizen's perspective of this project. First of all you will hear from Mr. Howard Phorson, local resident, farmer, Nuclear Operator at Bruce Power etc. Our second representative will be Mr. Kevin Mackay, retiree, local resident, Vice President Grey-Bruce Labour Council.

We are fully supportive of OPG receiving a License to prepare the site and proceed with construction of the DGR. Our CNWC on site member Union, The Power Workers Union (PWU), will operate the facility and will be on site during construction. The PWU will be following the progress of the facilities and will be able to provide additional "eyes and ears" in respect of worker safety and environmental issues.

In conclusion the CNWC is of the opinion that the DGR is not likely to significantly affect the environment and encourages the Panel to accept the EIS and to proceed to granting OPG a license to prepare the site and proceed to construction of the DGR.

Respectfully submitted

David Shier
President - CNWC

APPENDIX A

Objectives of the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

- to ensure that the interests and perspective of nuclear workers are heard by decision-makers;
- to strengthen the collective role of nuclear workers as a partner in their industry;
- to enhance public knowledge and understanding of nuclear issues by providing factual information; and
- to build support for the nuclear industry and its future potential.

APPENDIX B

Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council Member Unions

Canadian Union of Public Employees
Locals 1500, 2200, & 267

Communication, Energy & Paper Workers Union
Local 599-O & Local 48 – S

Canadian Auto Workers Union

International Association of Firefighters

International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers
Local 608

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Power Workers Union

Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPS)
CRPEG & WRPEG

Public Service Alliance of Canada

United Steel Workers
Locals 8914, 7806, 14193, 13713

Chalk River Technicians and Technologist Union

Society of Professional Engineers & Associates (Candu Inc)

Hydro Quebec Professional Engineers Union

Grey Bruce Labour Council

Durham Region Labour Council

Northumberland Labour Council

GREY-BRUCE LABOUR COUNCIL

Representing the Needs of Working People Since 1956
(Chartered to the Canadian Labour Congress in 1956)

August 12, 2013

Mr. D. Shier
President – CNWC
244 Eglinton Ave, East
Toronto, ON
M4P 1K2

Mr. Shier:

RE: CNWC Submission to the Joint Review Panel(JRP) Public Hearing For OPG's Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Project & Application for a License to Prepare the SITE

The Grey Bruce Labour Council is the community voice of labour in Bruce and Grey Counties and has been for over fifty years. The Labour Council is diverse and inclusive and all sectors from private to public, to education, healthcare, energy and manufacturing are well represented at the table. Often present at the labour council table are community groups, and retiree chapters and representatives making up a vibrant facet of the labour council. Our Labour Council is also an affiliate of the Canadian Nuclear Workers Council. The Grey Bruce Labour Council is the host labour council for the Bruce Nuclear site.

Due to a demonstrated commitment to worker safety and the well-being of the surrounding communities the Grey Bruce Labour Council has been supportive of the nuclear licensees (Bruce Power Inc & Ontario Power generation) in our catchment area.

The Power Workers' Union (PWU) (CNWC Affiliate), the union that represents the Workers at the site of Bruce Power and OPG's Western Waste Management Facility is an active member of our Labour Council. The PWU representatives keep our executive and the membership informed of issues regarding the current nuclear facilities and including the DGR Project. Representatives of our Labour Council had the opportunity to tour the proposed DGR site and received a briefing in the fall of 2012.

The Canadian Nuclear Worker's Council (CNWC) submissions in support of the DGR Project has been presented and discussed by the Grey Bruce Labour Council.

The evidence is clear that OPG remains committed to do all that is possible to sustain the safety of workers and nearby communities, and the Grey Bruce Labour Council is pleased to continue its support for the operations and improvements that are undertaken by all licensees in our catchment area.

In solidarity,

Hazel Pratt-Paige, President
Grey Bruce Labour Council