

2011 Advocacy Report

Gracia Janes PCWO VP Environment

1. In July 2011, we sent a letter to Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources, to not approve the application from The Highland Companies for a “Class A License Quarry Below Water”. We were concerned about the large quarry destroying a significant amount of prime farmland and the shallow water table in the area.

No reply yet.

2. In July 2011, we endorsed a letter sent by Greenpeace to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission re the Darlington Life-Extension Review in Light of Fukushima. We asked that the scope, transparency and public participation of the proposed environmental and safety reviews for Ontario Power Generation’s proposal to refurbish and extend the life of the Darlington nuclear station be significantly expanded and modified.

Reply: The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) replied that they are required to conduct only a screening-level environmental assessment, but they are going beyond requirements and having a public comment period (ending Aug. 22, 2011). The Commission will consider whether the Project should continue as a screening-level EA or whether to recommend to the federal Minister of the Environment to refer the Project to a mediator or review panel. In light of the Fukushima event the CNSC has taken actions to ensure the increased safety of nuclear plants.

3. In September 2011, we sent a letter to Commissioners Frances Lankin and Munir Sheikh regarding their review of Social Assistance in Ontario. We were concerned about the

poverty myths, its slow action, its separation of children from families – with a resultant lowering of family benefits, and the low rates of benefits for single individuals.

No reply yet.

4. In September 2011, we endorsed the 25 in 5 networks Call to Action. It was “an open letter to leaders of all Ontario political parties to make the reduction and eradication of poverty a key election issue and to clearly outline their commitments and concrete plans to tackle poverty.”
5. In September 2011, we also endorsed a press release to the Toronto Star along with other environmental groups entitled “Choose Green Energy: Stop Darlington.”
6. In September 2011, we sent a letter to the Chief Canada and U.S. Negotiators for the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with Comments on the Great Lakes