

**March 6, 2014**

**Premier Kathleen Wynne  
Legislative Building Queens Park**

The Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO), by motion of its members in attendance at our 2013 Semi-Annual meeting at Queens Park on December 6th draws to your attention PCWO's grave concern that Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) is planning to transport 23,000 liters of dangerous, long-lasting highly radioactive liquid nuclear fuel waste, containing Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) close to 2,000 kilometres from Chalk River to South Carolina by road. When approved by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the American authorities, these precedent-setting shipments are estimated by experts to be made weekly (with the possible exception of winter months) over a 2-4 year period.

In Quebec, over 321 municipalities have spoken out by petition, regarding the potential for human error, malfeasance or accidents, which could pose extreme hazards to communities and the surrounding farmlands and general country-side, as well as rivers and ground water. These municipalities have also cited the inability of first-responders to be able to handle an accident, which could involve such issues as an accidental cask puncture and nuclear waste run off onto roads, land, streams or rivers. Should this involve a fire near a school, or liquid release into drinking water sources, iodine pills would have to be distributed to children within a 45-minute time limit. And, according to nuclear expert Gordon Edwards, the radioactive waste contained in just one of the planned shipments is more than enough to ruin any city's water supply.

PCWO is dismayed that, despite knowing of the pending application, Ontario communities along the potential route have

not spoken out on the issue. Regional Niagara Council was warned by staff a few months ago about the potential dangers of an accident, which would threaten fruit lands and natural areas in the Niagara Greenbelt, prime farm lands, the Great Lakes and adjacent water courses.

We recognize that the Canadian authorities for this proposal are the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Federal Government. Nevertheless, we urge your Government to investigate all aspects of this plan. This should include consideration of whether there are alternative methods of either continuing to solidify and store the materials on site at Chalk River, or solidifying it and then sending it to the USA. The latter, while not ideal, is a safer method of transport than in liquid form. PCWO also urges your government, particularly the Ministries of Environment and Health to work with municipal governments, whose legislative responsibility is the health and safety of their residents, to ensure their emergency preparedness plans are in place before the shipments commence.

Regarding this latter request, PCWO is aware that, at this time, while emergency planning and health staff in at least one municipality have been in contact with the Ontario Provincial Police and the Ontario Emergency Management division of MTO, they have been informed that there will not be any special notifications about when and where the nuclear waste will be transported.

We hope your Government will decide to speak out against these very dangerous shipments and work with the other affected province, Quebec, and the Federal government, to ensure safe interim and long term storage of highly radioactive, extremely long lasting, liquid nuclear waste.

Mary Potter, President PCWO