

Nuclear Waste Dialogue

The Assembly of First Nations is committed to:

First Nations participation in shaping the preferred approach to long-term nuclear fuel waste management.

Resolution 103/99

And

Recognition of nuclear waste management organization aboriginal and treaty rights obligations.

Resolution 51/2003

Through the dialogue process the Assembly of First Nations will:

- **raise awareness** within First Nations communities;
- **build First Nations capacity** to engage in discussions and decision making;
- **promote dialogue** within First Nations;
- **facilitate First Nations engagement** on the issue within the broader Canadian society.

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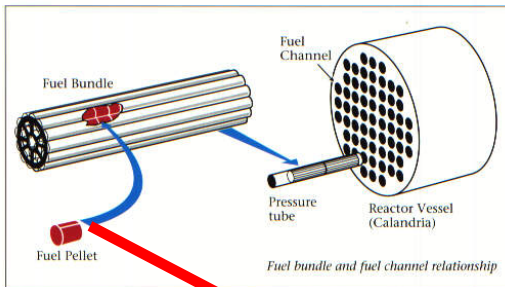


“Ensure your voice is heard. To remain silent and not to be involved doesn’t do justice to this important issue.” *Our Land, Our Choice* video

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

Nuclear
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Nuclear Waste Dialogue



Nuclear energy is

derived from uranium used in nuclear fission. Fuel bundles produce heat to create steam which spins the turbine to drive the generators that produce electricity. Nuclear fuel waste is the spent fuel bundle that is no longer efficient at producing energy in the nuclear process. It contains radioactive and toxic materials. And continues to produce radiation and heat, all of which will remain hazardous for thousands of years. It is dangerous to human and environmental health.

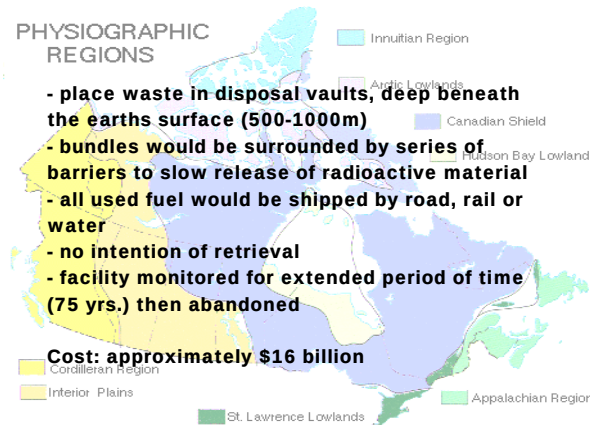


Currently, all nuclear reactors in Canada are situated on traditional First Nations territories. Nuclear fuel waste is stored on-site and there is no policy for the long-term management.

The Nuclear Fuel Waste Act, 2002, was created in response to enacting long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. It created the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) which comprises of the nuclear producers in Canada; Ontario Power Generation Inc., Hydro-Quebec, New Brunswick Power Corporation, and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Proposed approaches of nuclear fuel waste management examined by NWMO:

1) deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield;



2) storage at nuclear reactor sites;



3) centralized storage, either above or below ground;



Nuclear fuel waste management proposed recommendation by NWMO,

May 24, 2005

4) adaptive phased management.

- centralized containment to be isolated deep underground through 3 phases incorporating all three approaches extending over 300 yrs.
 - transportation by road, rail, or water
 - permits waste retrieval and monitoring
 - leaves questions of whether or when to close repository and what type of monitoring is required for future generations to answer
- Cost: approximately \$24.4 billion

NWMO will focus their dialogue on; **Ontario, Saskatchewan, Quebec and New Brunswick.** The final report will be presented to the Minister of Natural Resources by **November 15, 2005.**

Traditional Aboriginal knowledge can be reflected on an issue that will have an effect beyond seven generations. The Assembly of First Nations can provide an opportunity for your concerns to be heard and recorded.

"Be involved, know the issue and understand how nuclear waste affects you as an individual, your community and the land that sustains us." *Our Land, Our Choice video*
Phil Fontaine, National Chief

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