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Letters To The Editor Timmins Times Saturday, December 4, 2004

'Not-in-my-backyard' attitude fits the situation

Saturday December 04, 2004

Timmins Times — To the Editor:

John Monaghan's portrayal of those of us who express legitimate concerns during the ongoing nuclear waste discussions as fear mongers only demonstrates that he has blindly fallen victim to believing the increasingly bias local media spin, and adds nothing of value to the debate.

John advises all of us to get the facts, "the real facts" to use his words.

Ignorance, so it seems, is keeping us from believing as he does, that the burial of nuclear waste in Northern Ontario is akin to being "blessed with a golden opportunity".

He is not alone in believing in this strategy of using the premise of education as an instrument to desensitize a community into focusing on one of three possible solutions and ignoring all other aspects of a large and complicated issue.

Gary Scripnick stated in a deputation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency that, "The Corporation and the Timmins Chamber of Commerce have already held a few information sessions in Timmins which proved that education can make the public feel more comfortable and eventually accept the concept of underground disposal".

In my opinion, this learning methodology is more "infomercial" than "educational".

Northern Ontario was not consulted in the 60s about the pros and cons of developing nuclear power as an energy source.

Northern Ontario was not consulted about nuclear plant locations and the sharing of the direct economic benefits of the nuclear industry.

Northern Ontario was not asked to participate in any industry research pertaining to the option it is being sold on, deep geological burial. (A discussion with an NWMO official confirmed what their fact filled brochures indicate; there is no research-facility aspect to the deep geological burial plan.)

Northern Ontario is not even given the option of calling for a review of the entire nuclear industry given the overall budget costs of refurbishing aging plants in addition to the nuclear waste dilemma.

So, when the people of Northern Ontario are asked to use their environment as a buffer between an imported uncontainable deadly material and future generations of northerners, "not-in-my-back-yard" is an appropriate response given that the more deserved reply is too vulgar to print.

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