

15 March 2004

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Dear Ms. Dowdeswell:

Thank you for sending me a copy of "Asking the right questions", which I have read & will donate to my local public library.

I suppose that IF one accepts nuclear waste storage at all, then some good & pertinent questions are asked in the document.

But nowhere does my main question get asked: For the money we spend on nuclear energy - with its vast attendant problems such as waste disposal, environmental risk, damages from uranium mining, and now, enormous terrorist risk - - - for that same amount of money, could we not purchase insulation, ground heat pumps & solar panels galore? Could we not fund oodles of research into clean, low-risk

energy alternatives such as tidal & in-stream hydro, improved solar & wind technologies? Could we not fund enormous improvements in public transit?

Look at Denmark! A climate no better than much of populated-Canada, & a fraction of the energy consumption per capita: passive solar water heating panels on home roofs everywhere, well-funded transit, bike paths alongside all major highways & streets. And a great wind technology that's selling worldwide, plus state-of-the-art garbage incineration that solves 2 problems with one technology.

Surely Canada can do better than to push an inherently dangerous form of energy production — now made far more dangerous because of the risk of spent fuels falling into the wrong hands in our crowded, globalized world.

So, no, your document does not raise the right questions.

Yours sincerely,  
Deborah Jones