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Subject: My Town of Saugeen Shores confirms that its Citizens never got a vote on the OPG DGR! How is that possible in our Free and Democratic Society on the most important project to ever confront our Community - forever?
Date: March 13, 2017 12:03:34 AM
Importance: High

March 12, 2017

Hi Minister McKenna & Deep Geologic Repository Project Manager:

My Town of Saugeen Shores confirms that its Citizens never got a vote on the OPG DGR! How is that possible in our Free and Democratic Society regarding the most important project that will ever confront our Community – forever?

This is my response to my Saugeen Shores Town Council’s letter to Minister McKenna [c/o DGR Project Manager], dated March 1, 2017, wherein Council purports to support the OPG DGR.

1. Council had to delete its original proposed letter that stated that Council “believes the majority of its Citizens support the findings of the JRP” and that its support was “unequivocal” because there has been no required referendum and no way for Council to determine Citizen support. Inexplicably, Council still supports the OPG DGR despite receiving delegations and documentation by Citizens to Council and the Town that have overwhelmingly opposed the DGR throughout this process.

2. Our Mayor testified at the Joint Review Panel’s Public Hearings:

“[JOINT REVIEW PANEL] MEMBER ARCHIBALD: As a usual follow-up, as we’ve been asking all of your colleagues, you had mentioned that you, the Council, had developed a very good understanding of OPG operations through the consultation process. The standard question is, has this understanding and level of approval by the community ever been tested by polling?

[SAUGEEN SHORES] MAYOR SMITH: Not by the Council of Saugeen Shores.”

3. In addition, OPG requires a “compelling willing Community,” far beyond a simple majority.
4. There is massive opposition to the DGR by Citizens of Saugeen Shores, led by passionate and well-informed Citizens who support Save Our Saugeen Shores [SOS], and the Citizens that support my opposition that has been filed throughout the DGR process for the Minister’s meaningful consideration, meaningful review, and meaningful inclusion in her decision. For our Council to ignore and not even advise the Minister about this opposition is particularly troubling to a reasonable person when OPG requires Saugeen Shores [and other Bruce County Towns together] to use “Best Efforts” to support its DGR or Saugeen Shores [and other Bruce County Towns] will not be eligible to receive obscene amounts of Taxpayer money for a scheduled 30 years, pursuant to the Hosting Agreement [e.g. \$500,000 bonus for using best efforts in writing a support letter to the JRP]. In the future, Parliament has to prohibit these despicable payments that strip Citizens of their Due Process and Democratic Rights. Our Town has increased taxes since these deplorable handouts have been stopped pending this ultra-slow and inept DGR process that already has become time-barred by the 2 year Statute of Limitations, and made any urgency laughable.
5. The new OPG Report confirms that there is NO NECESSITY and NO URGENCY required for the Minister to approve OPG’s proposed DGR to bury clothes and rags worn and used by nuclear workers [consisting of 80% of the proposed DGR for low and intermediate nuclear waste], because high level nuclear waste spent fuel will remain on the surface and will never be able to find a DGR home because it is too dangerous and too risky and too costly to transport the spent fuel to an off-site second DGR, and OPG’s proposed DGR for low and intermediate nuclear waste prohibits spent fuel.
6. As a result, no Citizen and Taxpayer would ever support the inept, incompetent, and irresponsible OPG DGR that will consist of 80% clothes and rags worn and used by nuclear workers that need no special handling and no special protection and no DGR [unanimously], while spent fuel will remain on the surface and will never find a DGR home.
7. It is irresponsible for our elected and unelected government officials to continue to waste obscene amounts of Taxpayer dollars on a nonsensical and irresponsible DGR for clothes and rags without an overall long term plan for spent fuel – the real evil in this entire process that all Citizens have a solemn obligation and duty to resolve in the best way possible.
8. Citizens and Taxpayers require the immediate termination of this infamous and inexplicable 2-Track 2-DGR haphazard boondoggle, and replace it with a sensible 1-Track 1-DGR process for all nuclear waste, wherein all Citizens and Taxpayers can have meaningful input and meaningful inclusion in the process – not to mention creating much needed fiscal responsibility in this absolute waste of Taxpayer dollars.

9. There is only one decision that Minister McKenna can make – that is to dismiss and terminate the OPG DGR application for low and intermediate nuclear waste.

10. After all, this is a project that will affect our Community forever. What is the rush to get clothes and rags underground, while spent fuel is decades away from any resolution? Spending a couple of decades getting it right is not too much for Citizens and Taxpayers to ask for a forever project.

Please post this with my other materials sent to you today for *meaningful* consideration, *meaningful* review, and *meaningful* inclusion in Minister McKenna's decision regarding the OPG DGR for low and intermediate nuclear waste. While it is beyond the March 6 filing deadline, Citizens must be given leeway to respond to other comments filed. Democracy requires it. Unfortunately, the OPG DGR process has destroyed Democracy. The DGR process can best be described by one word: Reprehensible! Citizens and Taxpayers rely upon Minister McKenna to protect their Due Process and Democratic Rights in this most critical project that will ever confront our Community forever. We never had a vote! How is that possible in our Free and Democratic Society?

Most Respectfully,

John Mann
Citizen and Registered Participant
Saugeen Shores, Ontario