

SOUTHAMPTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1081 Southampton ON NOH 2L0. Email: www.southamptonontario.org

ENSURING TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE TOWN

Important Issue for all SRA members

Council has started the process to have Saugeen Shores become No. 1 site in Canada for the burial of highly dangerous nuclear waste--the spent fuel rods from all nine nuclear power facilities. We are not against nuclear power but feel Saugeen Shores is just not the place to store spent fuel.

We are taking this unusual step of emailing you concerning a very worrisome move by the Saugeen Shores Council. At the meeting of the Committee of the Whole, a report by CAO Larry Allison was approved by Council. This authorizes the Town and Staff to begin discussions and an evaluation for building a long term Deep Geological Repository for Managing Used Nuclear Fuel with associated facilities. In simple terms they want to dig a deep hole or cavern to store spent fuel from all of Canada's nine nuclear reactors. We feel that Saugeen Shores is not the best location for storage of highly radioactive fuel and the Council should not proceed with such an evaluation without advising the public of the project and obtaining their input and approval. This process needs to be stopped **NOW**:

1. Highly radioactive spent fuel is extremely dangerous and is many thousands of times more radioactive than the low and intermediate which will be stored at the Bruce in a similar facility and cavern now being constructed.
2. This waste will take 100 odd years to decay to safe levels and 100,000 years for it to decay to the level of the surrounding rock. Spent fuel will take hundreds of thousands of years to decay to safe levels presenting no health risks.
3. Radioactivity will slowly migrate through the base rock as defined in the current studies for Low and Intermediate Waste Storage. Such data cannot be extrapolated over thousand times with any certainty. That would be bad science.
4. No one can honestly say that there will never be a catastrophic event in this time frame. Earthquakes can develop in areas not considered prone to quakes. We only have several hundreds of year's records of past events and have to consider hundreds of thousand years probability. There could well be another ice age or complete flooding over this timeframe.
5. Any accident or contamination of the surrounding areas from this new facility would make the nuclear accident at Japan's Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant look like a Sunday School Picnic.
6. We are lucky to live in a beautiful area on the shores of the Great Lakes, one of the World's largest fresh water systems. Millions of people depend on it for drinking water, agriculture and recreation activities. Contamination of the Great Lakes would destroy large parts of Canada and the USA making it uninhabitable. Even a slightest risk has enormous long term consequences.
7. Saugeen Shores is on Lake Huron and too close to the Lake to be a potential site without huge risks.

8. Siting this facility here would negate the promotion of the Town as a desirable tourist destination. "Come to Saugeen Shores – the nuclear waste dump" is not an attractive theme.
9. During any evaluation, Saugeen Shores would become a magnet for anti-nuclear activists. Do we want to be caught up in demonstrations at the expense of safety and lifestyle?
10. The presence of this facility would detract from Saugeen Shores as a fine place to own a cottage or a retirement property. Over time properties would drop in value and become hard to sell. We will all lose money.
11. The thought of many trucks carrying spent fuel continually trundling through the community is not a pleasant or practical.
12. Kincardine has declined to participate in this new venture. Why should Saugeen Shores?
13. The Council assured the community that spent fuel would never be stored here when the current Low and Intermediate Waste Facility was being evaluated. Nothing has changed except Council's attitude. One of the screening process mandate items states that the site must be outside known geological and hydrogeological features that would prevent the site from being safe. Surely proximity to Lake Huron is such a feature.
14. Council clearly doesn't understand the science and are being sucked along the slippery slope. There are eight communities who are looking to host the site. Saugeen Shores is not needed.

To even proceed with preliminary screening is a slippery slope to further commitment. It makes no sense to start a process if it is generally thought that we can get out later. The Town receives significant grants from OPG for agreeing to siting the Low and Intermediate Waste Facility in Kincardine. Maybe Council sees it as a possible source for revenue at the expense of safety and the good of the community.

The Board feels strongly that the Town Council should stop the process now. The proposal will go before the full council in two weeks for final approval and letters of acceptance will then be written and sent to Ottawa.

WE URGE EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS OUR POSITION TO EMAIL MAYOR SMITH TODAY. PUT MAYOR SMITH'S EMAIL ADDRESS MAYOR@SAUGEENSHORES.CA IN 'TO' AND HIT SEND. COPIES CAN ALSO BE SENT TO ALL COUNCILLORS AND STAFF MEMBERS THAT TOURED THE OPG SITE RECENTLY. THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES ARE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE. ALTERNATIVELY MAIL TO

**THE TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES
P.O. Box 820
600 TOMLINSON DR
PORT ELGIN ON N0H 2L0**

Public response and pressure will work and you need to do this immediately.

Thanks for your help.

Tim Andersen. For the Board.