



Press Release

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence mayors express disappointment at decision to approve radioactive equipment and waste shipment

Cities remain concerned about risk of accident, flawed environmental review

February 4, 2011 –The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative expressed disappointment with today’s decision by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to approve the shipment of sixteen radioactive waste steam generators on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence form the largest body of fresh water in the world. Over twenty million Canadians and Americans live close to the shoreline of this vast basin, and over forty million rely on them for their safe drinking water.

In testimony at the federal hearing and in supplementary comments to the CNSC, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative had outlined its concerns over the shipment. “Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence remain concerned that this proposed shipment of 1,600 tonnes of radioactive equipment and waste from the Bruce Power facility exceeds the International Atomic Energy Agency’s own safety standard for total allowable limit of radioactive waste shipment in inland waters such as the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence”, said Mayor Lapointe, Mayor of Salaberry de Valleyfield, Quebec and Chair of the Cities Initiative.

In its analysis, the Cities Initiative shows that an accidental spill of radioactive material during its shipment in the Great Lakes nearshore area, in Owen Sound harbour or in a lock could exceed federal standards for radioactivity in drinking water that could trigger emergency intervention. This shipment also has the potential to set the Canadian precedent for transportation of large radioactive waste equipment that exceeds international safety standards on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence.

“Following the public hearings, important questions remained unanswered and we appreciate that the Commissioners requested further information,” said St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan, Vice-Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “Even with this added information, however, mayors remain concerned over the risk of an accident and the potential for radioactivity to reach our drinking water.”

As parts of the St. Lawrence Seaway are closed for the winter, Bruce Power has announced that the transport of the radioactive waste will be delayed until the Seaway is reopened in spring.

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David Miller, Mayor of Toronto (2003-2010), Founding Canadian Chair



The Cities Initiative is a bi-national coalition of over 70 mayors from Quebec, Ontario and the eight Great Lake States who work to protect, restore and promote the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. For more information and a copy of the detailed Cities Initiative comments, please visit www.glslcities.org.

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