



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE MAYORS OPPOSE NUCLEAR WASTE SHIPMENT**

*Cities concerned about bending safety rules, lack of information*

Ottawa September 28, 2010 - The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative outlined its reasons for opposing the proposed shipment of radioactive waste on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, in testimony presented by Executive Director David Ullrich at a public hearing today held by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

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.

“The Cities Initiative is concerned about the risk this proposed shipment presents to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. We have identified several information gaps and concerns with the materials shared with the public to date,” said Mayor Denis Lapointe of Salaberry de Valleyfield, Quebec, and Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “We are concerned that the environmental review rests on best case rather than worst case assumptions.”

“The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are resources of tremendous value to our communities and the two countries,” said Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and past-Chair of the Cities Initiative. “With the risk involved and the precedence that could be set, the Cities Initiative opposes the shipment.”

In his testimony, Mr. Ullrich underlined the Cities Initiative’s primary concerns over the shipment. “This proposed shipment of 1,600 tonnes of equipment from the Bruce Power facility exceeds the International Atomic Energy Agency’s own safety standard for radioactive waste shipments in inland waters such as the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence by 50 times,” said Mr. Ullrich. “This is not a good precedent.”

The proposed shipment by Bruce Power includes sixteen school bus-sized, 100-tonne radioactive steel steam generators, for transport to Sweden. The proposed shipment would begin in Owen Sound, and continue through Georgian Bay, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence and out into the Atlantic.

The Cities Initiative’s opposition is based on three principle reasons. Firstly, the analysis of potential environmental impacts to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence in the event of an accident during shipment has significant information gaps, uses best case instead of worst case assumptions, and is limited in detail and in scope.

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[www.glslcities.org](http://www.glslcities.org)

*Denis Lapointe, Mayor of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Chair*

*Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair*

*David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair*



The recent revision by the CNSC that resulted in a 49% increase in the calculated radioactivity of the shipment underlines our concern over the quality of the environmental review.

Secondly, the process followed to date by Bruce Power and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to review the proposed shipment, answer questions and to inform the public has been inadequate.

Thirdly, the potentially precedent setting nature of the shipment, with the amount of radioactive waste far exceeding the international allowable limit for a single shipment in inland waters like the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence is cause for concern.

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, please visit [www.gslcities.org](http://www.gslcities.org).

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