



PRESS RELEASE
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**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE MAYORS REAFFIRM
OPPOSITION TO RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHIPMENT**
*Cities concerned about risk to drinking water, insufficient information to make
decision*

Toronto, November 23, 2010 - In a supplemental submission made to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) today, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) documented in detail the potential threat that the proposed shipment of radioactive waste on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River poses to drinking water.

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.

Following public hearings in late September, the CNSC requested a supplemental report from its staff to address information gaps that were brought to its attention by the Cities Initiative and other interested parties. In its analysis of the supplemental report, the Cities Initiative show that an accidental spill of radioactive material during its shipment in the Great Lakes nearshore area or in Owen Sound harbour could exceed federal standards for radioactivity in drinking water that could trigger emergency intervention.

“As mayors, we are responsible for providing safe drinking water to our communities”, said Mayor Brian McMullan of St. Catharines, Ontario, and Vice Chair of the Cities Initiative. “Our analysis shows that federal standards for drinking water safety could be exceeded in the event of a serious accident during shipment of the radioactive waste.”

Having reviewed the supplemental report of CNSC staff to the Commission, the Cities Initiative remains seriously concerned with the flawed environmental review conducted by the proponent, Bruce Power, and the CNSC staff. Safety scenarios do not consider more serious accidents, rely on a series of assumptions, and lack an assessment of ecological risk.

“The CSNS revised staff report confirms many of our concerns”, said George Heartwell, mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and past chair of the Cities Initiative. “However, we disagree with the conclusions of the revised report, and feel that an accident involving this shipment does pose a significant environmental and public health risk.”

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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 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 CNSC’s decision of whether or not to approve the shipment of radioactive waste through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence must be based on comprehensive information”, said David Ullrich, Executive Director of the Cities Initiative. “The basis for a decision is lacking because of the absence of a thorough environmental review and other incomplete information.”

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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