



## Coalition For a Clean Green Saskatchewan

[ccgs@ontera.net](mailto:ccgs@ontera.net)

August 31, 2005

Honourable Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan &  
Saskatchewan Government Cabinet Ministers

Dear Premier Calvert and Cabinet Ministers:

**RE: The industry's Nuclear Waste Management  
Organization (NWMO) draft documents on  
recommendations for spent nuclear fuel  
management.**

The Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan (CCGS) has its roots deeply embedded in the grass roots movement of communities, groups and individual citizens in Saskatchewan. For example, ICUC is a member of the CCGS. Since the time of the Cluff Lake Inquiry the grass roots movement has been advocating non-polluting clean green energy alternatives rather than nuclear technologies which produce:

1. weapons of mass destruction, in the form of nuclear bombs and depleted uranium war heads which have left behind a legacy of death and destruction to people and property in what used to be Yugoslavia, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, not to mention the health and well being of thousands of soldiers who were exposed to radioactive debris in the war zones;
2. electrical energy at prohibitive costs to consumers, utility companies, and governments

3. radioactive contamination at all stages of the nuclear chain: low level to high level contamination from nuclear materials from mining to milling and to spent nuclear fuel rods.
4. obsolete technologies and additional prohibitive costs for decommissioning nuclear installations from spent mines to old refineries and obsolete nuclear reactors,
5. catastrophes such as Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and mining, milling and tailing spills in northern Saskatchewan; sunken nuclear submarines, and deep sea dumping of spent nuclear fuel along with such disastrous efforts at reprocessing spent fuel at Sellafield, England.
6. denials and cover-ups by vested interests and nuclear advocates when such disasters happen- (The WHO is unable to tell the truth about Chernobyl since the IAEA must first give its approval before the release of any health information surrounding nuclear activities. In deed, in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment report (launched on July 5 2005, Washington) published under the auspices of the UN, there is no mention of radionuclide contamination. This is unbelievable after more than a half century of nuclear test explosions, activities and disasters around the world.)
7. the opportunity for nuclear terrorism from blowing up nuclear installations to dirty bombs!

In Canada, it is incomprehensible that the very people who are elected as trustees of the public good, namely provincially and federally elected government leaders, continue to engage in a manipulative spin-doctoring strategy to advance a nuclear agenda which has been, is and will continue to be a nuclear nightmare for Canadians and the global community. Indeed it is appalling to witness the manner in which they exercise brute power. They blatantly maintain a conspiracy of public silence about their plans to continue down the nuclear path and push through an agenda of an ill conceived spent fuel management strategy in order to justify continued use of fatigued nuclear reactors and proceed with new nuclear reactors.

As demonstrated by Dr. Adamson (see attachment), by ignoring, contravening and attempting to co-opt the Seaborn recommendations, the Federal Government surreptitiously delegated to the waste producers the task of making recommendations on spent nuclear fuel management. When one examines chronologically the statements of the industry's NWMO, from its inception to its final draft reports, it is quite apparent that it has been a fraudulent exercise in rationalizing and justifying a

predetermined strategy to proceed with more nuclear reactors.

Consistent with the Government of Canada strategy, the industry's NWMO not only fails to provide wide public dissemination of accurate and complete scientific information on all matters surrounding the nuclear industrial chain, they ignore, reinterpret, minimize and fail to heed fundamental principles of truth, honesty, good science and respect for ordinary Canadians and their environment.

The industry's NWMO defiantly engages in a mock public consultation process which gives the appearance of wide participation. It admits that it is hearing contrary and outright opposing views. It even attempts to be magnanimous by listing and posting such views! Not only is it quite obvious that it fails to provide adequate responses, as noted by Dr. Adamson, but it is clear that its strategy betrays cynical contempt for average Canadian citizens. By claiming that it has been open to hearing all sides of the issue, the industry's NWMO in fact attempts to co-opt Canadians and arrogantly presumes it has the wisdom and objectivity to adjudicate different viewpoints and make predetermined recommendations under the semblance of wide public input and consultations.

It is ironic that the Government of Canada "seized on the phrase, "the polluter pays," (CAWF p.24) and passed legislation giving this whole tangled and complex issue to the joint waste producers as the Nuclear Waste Management Organization." (Dr. Bill Adamson) The irony is in the response of the industry's NWMO. It suggests that it is the moral responsibility of Saskatchewan to accept and store the highly dangerous spent nuclear fuel. Not only are they shifting their problem back to the citizens of Saskatchewan who are already burdened with toxic nuclear tailings, chemical byproducts and with mine decommissioning responsibilities, they have the audacity to expect, to court and to lure Northern Aboriginal communities by extending them an invitation to be host communities for waste management facilities.

"Polluter pays????" It will be Saskatchewan, its land and its people for generations and millennia to come that will pay the price. What is most reprehensible is that one or more Cabinet ministers have openly acknowledged that it is our moral responsibility to accept spent nuclear fuel. To participate in the pseudo consultation process of the industry's NWMO and to endorse any of its recommendations is to legitimize the process and give credibility to what has become a systemic nuclear global evil of which Saskatchewan is close to the centre!

Sadly, clean green advocates have been vindicated by their prophetic assessment of the folly of the nuclear chain. Happily however they have been vindicated by the emergence of imaginative and creative, user friendly and cost efficient uses of alternative energies, alternatives which are being successfully implemented around the world. Saskatchewan is far behind because of governments and politicians who are naively and culpably ignorant or, even worse, willfully so. They have worked in concert with nuclear mining companies in perpetrating a myth of jobs, jobs, jobs especially for the North. In fact, they have incited community divisions and are leaving a legacy of radioactive contamination on the land and in many rivers and lakes.

Are you the decision makers prepared to engage in a wide, open, scientific, economic, ethical and social public debate on the nuclear chain? Clean green advocates have always maintained that end uses must be considered. While past governments waived aside such concerns, are you ready to lay all the cards on the table? Can you really stand to have the public know the complete truth about the nuclear chain?

Are you prepared to reject the fallacy of the cheap "clean" energy that nuclear power has enticed people into believing? Are you prepared to do an open public assessment of Saskatchewan's record in implementing alternative benign clean green energy alternatives? If you add all the "public costs" - from the environmental effects of mining and extracting uranium - to AECL costs on nuclear reactors - to dealing with what will be an incredible public investment in the spent nuclear fuel "dump" sites - it is much better for the environment and people to put those huge amounts into non polluting renewal energy sources.

Government, political, and industry leaders will be judged severely if they think they can make decisions with impunity which go against sound scientific economic and ethical principles, which do not respect the need to protect the environment and its inhabitants and which do not respect the social and cultural values of ordinary Canadian citizens who want to leave a healthy legacy to future generations. Government leaders, politicians and industry leaders cannot presume that they can act with impunity. The time lines in history for accountability are becoming shorter and shorter.

The Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan requests that the Government of Saskatchewan:

1. Object to this overriding of the concerns of the environment and the people of this province by this unilateral push of the federal government and the industry's Nuclear Waste Management Organization to

determine a uranium spent fuel management site. . Given the lack of scientific agreement that geological disposing of radioactive waste is able to provide the security of containment from the biosphere, the proposed solution of the industry will not protect human health both now and for future generations.

2. Declare that the process of the NWMO is seriously flawed and takes away from finding the real solutions to dealing with spent nuclear fuel. It is imperative that there is a halt to the production of further spent nuclear fuel, keep it in sight above ground and under strict surveillance until we find a precautionary means to deal with spent nuclear fuel.

3. Demand an open debate in the House of Commons on the whole issue of what to do with nuclear waste in Canada.

4. Call for an open debate at all levels of governance.

5. Demand that any decisions to be made on the management of spent nuclear fuel include a cross section of Canadian youth since any "solution" would affect them and generations to follow. The lack of inclusion of Canadian youth by the industry's NWMO at their public meetings is unacceptable. The silence of their voices is striking.

6. Demand that the Federal Government and not the industry be responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the management of all radioactive waste materials, and that the full cost of such monitoring be covered by appropriate cost assessment of the nuclear industry under the principle that the producers of spent uranium fuel pay the costs.

Finally, to substantiate many of the points made above, attached hereto is a copy of Dr. Bill Adamson's critique of documents issued by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.

On behalf of the Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan yours sincerely,

James V. Penna, Ph.D,

706 28<sup>th</sup> Street West,

Saskatoon, SK S7L0L4

August 31, 2005

Copy to:

Right Hon. Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. R. John Efford, Federal Minister of Natural Resources

Hon. Jack Layton, M.P., Leader, NDP

Hon. Stephen Harper, M.P. , Leader, Conservative Party

Hon. Gilles Duceppe, M.P. , Leader, Bloc Quebecois

Mr. Jim Harris, Leader, Green Party of Canada

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, President, Nuclear Industry's Nuclear Waste Management Organization