

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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ACTION OFFICE: OIP/EDO

AUTHOR: Emma Lui

AFFILIATION:

ADDRESSEE: Chairman Resource

SUBJECT: Concerns the transportation of highly enriched uranium nuclear waste in Canada

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY has Ack.

LETTER DATE: 03/11/2013

ACKNOWLEDGED Yes

SPECIAL HANDLING: Assigned to: OIP/EDO.

Lead office to publicly release 24 hours after SECY's assignment, via SECY/OIP/DPC.

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

No response/action recommended.

Jamie Owen

3/14/13

✓
Joosten, Sandy

From: Emma Lui [elui@canadians.org]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2013 10:04 AM
To: 'joe.oliver@parl.gc.ca'; 'denis.lebel@parl.gc.ca'; CHAIRMAN Resource;
'Michael.Binder@cnscccsn.gc.ca'; 'daniel.poneman@hq.doe.gov'
Cc: 'kentp@parl.gc.ca'; 'comuzzij@ottawa.ijc.org'; 'commission@washington.ijc.org';
'phmsa.administrator@dot.gov'
Subject: Transportation of Highly Enriched Uranium Nuclear Waste in Canada

Minister Joe Oliver, Department of Natural Resources
Chairman
Minister Denis Lebel, Transport Canada

Allison M. Macfarlane,

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Michael Binder
B. Poneman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel

U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Ministers Oliver and Lebel, Chairman Macfarlane, President Binder and Deputy Secretary Poneman:

RE: Transportation of Highly Enriched Uranium Nuclear Waste in Canada

We have recently become aware of the federal government's plans to ship Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) in liquid form from the Fissile Solution Storage Tank at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.'s Chalk River facility to a reprocessing plant in South Carolina. We ask the Government of Canada to stop the transport of the 23,000 litres of weapons-grade uranium, to start a process for the vitrification and monitoring of the waste in situ and to institute a plan to eliminate the production of radioactive waste in Canada.

There is a great deal of radioactive waste in Canada due to decades of reckless and short-sighted management of the nuclear industry. Transporting radioactive waste is always more dangerous than securing it in situ under stringent monitoring. Moving HEU nearly 2000 kilometers from Chalk River to the Savannah River Site in the United States puts people and the environment at an unacceptable risk. The shipment of HEU would need to pass through Eastern Ontario, cross international waters, enter numerous indigenous territories and cut through communities in six US states. The shipment would require as many as 76 trucks transporting the HEU close to the Ottawa River, the Saint Lawrence River, the eastern tip of Lake Ontario, and other waterways and watersheds. The impacts of any release of radioactive materials would be catastrophic, especially if it resulted in the contamination of our waterways. There is no possible route that will not endanger the drinking water of millions of people.

From our understanding, high level nuclear waste in liquid form has never been transported before. We are shocked that there will be no public consultation on this precedent setting shipment.

The communities along the intended transportation route will be most at risk from radioactive contamination resulting from a potential accident or terrorist attack on the shipment. Their ability to opt out is compromised by the secrecy of the route and the timing of the shipments. This is not acceptable- not knowing these details will not make them any safer. The high number of shipments required and the limited number of possible routes they can take makes secrecy impossible. At the very least, communities along the potential routes must be

informed and their decision to opt out must be respected. Communities along the route have the right to know, and a right to say no.

However, because of the unacceptable risk to communities, water sources, land and wildlife, we urge you to put a stop this shipment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow
National Chairperson
Council of Canadians

Mark Calzavara
Ontario-Quebec Regional Organizer
Council of Canadians

Emma Lui
Water Campaigner
Council of Canadians

c.c. Minister Peter Kent, Environment Canada
Joseph Comuzzi, Canadian Chair to the International Joint Commission
Lana Pollack, US Chair to the International Joint Commission
Cynthia L. Quarterman, Administrator of the US Department of Transportation, Pipelines and
Hazardous Materials Safety Administration