



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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13,505 Say NO to Nuclear Waste Burial in Northwestern Ontario – as New Provincial Petition is Launched

Thunder Bay – Petition results announced today show strong opposition to the proposal to transport, bury and then abandon nuclear waste at a site in Northwestern Ontario. While over 4,500 of the signatures were from Northwestern Ontario, the petition also drew international support.

We the Nuclear Free North, a Northern Ontario alliance opposed to the transportation and burial of nuclear waste posted the petition results on their web site www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca today.

“We launched the petition to raise awareness and to record opposition to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (NWMO’s) proposed plan to bury and abandon highly radioactive nuclear fuel waste in Northwestern Ontario,” explained Dodie LeGassick, nuclear lead with Environment North.

The ongoing petition was launched in 2019 by We the Nuclear Free North (WTNFN) ally Environment North, in both paper format and on the Change.org online platform. It currently sits at 13,505 signatures. 9,365 signatories are Canadians, with significant numbers from communities in the proposed project’s local area and watershed, such as Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (15), Eagle Lake First Nation (26), Dryden (1,389), Ignace (32), Dymont (10), Dinorwic (22), Kenora (89), Village of Wabigoon (34), and Thunder Bay (1,318).

The petition expresses opposition by saying: “We, the undersigned, do not support the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s nine-step selection process for a nuclear waste disposal site, and we strongly oppose having a Deep Geological Repository for high-level nuclear waste in Northwestern Ontario.”

“Strong opposition is particularly shown among people close to the proposed burial site,” said Wendy O’Connor of WTNFN. “The NWMO has pledged not to proceed with the project unless there is a robust demonstration of community willingness. There is, conversely, a strong demonstration of community opposition.”

New Ontario Petition

In August WTNFN launched a new petition to the Ontario Provincial Legislature, asking that Ontario adopt the Proximity Principle with respect to the management of radioactive wastes, and to direct Ontario Power Generation to further its development of robust extended storage systems at or near the point of generation.

The Proximity Principle, embodied in much European legislation, dictates that wastes be managed close to their points of production. If adopted, the Proximity Principle would dictate that nuclear waste in southern Ontario be managed near the nuclear power reactors where it was produced.

WTNFN favours management of Canada's nuclear fuel waste close to its points of production, but at a distance from the Great Lakes, in specially hardened containers and secure, permanent facilities. WTNFN opposes transport of the wastes to Northern Ontario for burial.

The Provincial petition will be presented to the Ontario Legislature in November.

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