



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 24, 2017

Brennain Lloyd
Northwatch Project Coordinator
Northwatch
Box 282
North Bay, ON P1B 8H2

Dear Ms. Lloyd:

Thank you for your letter of May 18, 2017, concerning Ontario Power Generation's Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Project.

On September 7, 2016, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change informed the proponent that the Agency would undertake the review of the additional information, assisted by federal authorities, in an open and transparent process, including opportunities for participation by the public and Indigenous groups.

In keeping with this direction, the Agency has used a process for the review of the additional information that is reflective of the extensive consultation and analysis completed by the Joint Review Panel and the current standard process for environmental assessments managed by the Agency. This process was outlined in the estimated timeline posted on the registry on January 3, 2017 ([CEAR # 2884](#)).

On April 5, 2017, after taking into consideration the comments received during the technical review and advice from federal departments, the Agency requested further information the proponent. The responses to the information requests will be submitted by the proponent on May 26, 2017. As stated previously, the Agency is using the current process for environmental assessments by the Agency to manage the Deep Geologic Repository Project, therefore, a 30-day public comment period on the responses to the information requests will not be held.

As outlined in the [Operational Policy Statement for Information Requests and Timelines \(February 2016\)](#), the Agency will have up to 30 days of non-regulatory time to form an opinion on whether the requested information has been provided by the proponent. If the Agency decides that it requires more information, it will ask the proponent for additional material. If, in the Agency's opinion, the responses have answered all the information requests, the Agency will inform the proponent and commence the draft report writing phase of the environmental assessment.

The Agency will finalize its draft report and make it available for a 30-day public comment and consultation with Indigenous groups. At the same time, the Agency will consult on proposed conditions for the Minister's decision statement, should the Project be allowed to proceed.



Thank you for your input during the review process of the additional information for the Deep Geologic Repository Project.

Please contact me if you require further information, I can be reached at CEAA.DGR.Project-Projet.DGR.ACEE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

Yours sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Robyn-Lynne Virtue
Panel Manager

NORTHWATCH

May 18, 2017

Ms. Robyn-Lynne Virtue
Panel Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Place Bell Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

Dear Ms. Virtue:

Re. **Public Review Process for Ontario Power Generation's Information Response of ~26 May 2017**

Further to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's direction to Ontario Power Generation of April 5, 2017ⁱ to provide additional additional information with respect to their proposal to bury radioactive wastes beside Lake Huron in a "deep geologic repository", Ontario Power Generation responded on April 13, 2017ⁱⁱ to advise the Agency that a response would be provided by May 26, 2017.

The Agency has not yet provided an outline of the means by which it intends to engage the interested public in the review of this additional information.

As you know, this is the most recent of several opportunities that Ontario Power Generation has been provided to meet the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act with respect to their proposed deep geologic repository for low and intermediate level wastes. The process has now moved beyond the usual steps in the federal environmental assessment review process, as Ontario Power Generation continues to fail to meet the requirements of the Act. Nevertheless, we have every expectation that the purposes of the Act are to be upheld, including the purpose of providing meaningful public engagement.

For the December 28th 2016 filing of additional information by Ontario Power Generation, the Agency provided an indication in advance that there would be a period for public review and comment, and announced the details following receipt of that additional information. Since the Agency's request of April 5th to Ontario Power Generation for additional additional information, there has been no such indication of how the public consultation on this next set of responses from OPG will be conducted.

To assist with work planning, Northwatch requests that the Agency provide the anticipated timeline and format for the review of Ontario Power Generation's submission, which OPG has advised the Agency will be submitted by May 26th.

Thank you for your attention and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,
<Original signed by>

↖ Brennain Lloyd
Northwatch

cc. Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

ⁱ CEAR # 3752, dated April 5, 2017, From the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to Ontario Power Generation
re: Results of the Technical Review of Ontario Power Generation's Response to the Ministerial Request for Additional
Information for the Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Project

ⁱⁱ CEAR # 3754, dated April 13, 2017, From Ontario Power Generation to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
re: Acknowledgement of Information Request Package

