
Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 5, 6 & 7, 2005, Yellowknife, NWT

Resolution no. 39/2005

SUBJECT: Nuclear Waste Management Organization Dialogue Process

MOVED BY: Chief Tobie Aubichon, English River First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Jean-Charles Pietacho, Conseil des Innus de Ekuanitshit, QB

DECISION: Carried (*see resolution #20/2005 – Outstanding Resolutions*)

WHEREAS First Nations have concerns about the impacts of the nuclear industry on people and the environment including from mining uranium to the ultimate management of nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS the Assembly of First Nations has been engaged in a dialogue on management of nuclear fuel waste with First Nations since July 2004 to raise awareness, build initial capacity, promote and facilitate discussions; and

WHEREAS the issues and concerns raised by First Nations during the dialogue include: consultation, protocols, voluntarism, energy policy, source reduction, traditional knowledge, environmental racism, Aboriginal & treaty rights, decision making authority, capacity and resources, low & intermediate level waste, transportation of nuclear fuel waste, and importation of waste from outside of Canada; and

WHEREAS the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), composed as it is of the nuclear generating companies, is in a conflict of interest with respect its responsibility to make proposals for the management of nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS the NWMO released its draft final report on May 24, 2005 with its proposed recommendation to be made to the Government of Canada by November 15, 2005 for the long term management of nuclear fuel waste; and

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 7th day of July, 2005 in Yellowknife, NWT.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

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WHEREAS the NWMO has identified the four provinces of New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan to be the focus of its attention with respect to the proposed recommendation; and

WHEREAS the NWMO is providing a timeline of three months to comment on the draft final report including the proposed recommendation for long term storage of nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS the Nuclear Waste Dialogue activities of the AFN and the processes of the NWMO and Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) that have been carried out to date do not constitute full and meaningful consultation with First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AFN shall seek an amendment to the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* to extend the deadline for submitting a recommendation for the long term management of nuclear fuel waste from November 15, 2005 to November 15, 2006 and that NWMO and NRCAN be urged to carry out full and effective consultations with First Nations, provide adequate funds for capacity building, and ensure reasonable timeframes for discussion and adequate involvement in decision making both; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NWMO and NRCAN be urged to conduct further research and provide support to First Nations' driven research into the long term management of nuclear waste, particularly with respect to issues of concern to First Nations, including potential impacts on vulnerable aquifers; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that NWMO be urged, in its final report, to present plans for monitoring nuclear plants, addressing health impacts from nuclear industry activities, and emergency response including resources to First Nations to respond to potential nuclear accidents; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada be urged to develop alternative energy sources to nuclear reactors.

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Phil Fontaine, National Chief