

Marti McFadzean, Deputation to the Kincardine Council
The Inverhuron Committee
15 Oct 2014

End of term for the 2010 – 2014 Councillors

Since the mandate of this Council is winding down and a new election will be held on October 27th, I would like to take this opportunity to address those of you who were elected as our representatives this term. There will possibly be new members who are elected in October and I would like the chance to speak to them late in the Fall, but my comments today are really geared to the Councillors seated at the Council table.

Deputation of December 2012

In December 2012, as The Inverhuron Committee was incorporated, and I represented this group in 2012 through a Delegation to the Council and voiced concerns that had emerged from our study and analysis of the Ontario Power Generation project to build a deep geologic repository at the Bruce Site. Generally, I found that the individual Councillors did not have a strong base of information on the details of the repository. I saw several concerned faces and some questions were posed at that time. One Councillor replied that Ontario Power Generation had presented information to Council and, as a group, they were certain that the project was well-researched and that we must trust the scientists hired by the company to give us a safe storage plan for the permanent disposal of low and intermediate level nuclear waste. The Inverhuron Committee Board and working group members chose not to accept information at face value and we moved forward to do our own homework.

What has happened since 2012

In the Fall of 2013, The Joint Review Panel held a Hearing at the Kincardine Legion and in Port Elgin. There were many presentations by very knowledgeable scientists in the fields of geology, hydrology and environmental studies. Dr. Rhodes, Dr. Duinker, Dr. Ottensmeyer all posed questions and raised concerns about subjective conclusions made by Ontario Power Generation as well as limiting modelling of computer design for the project when actual data was available. The design model being used was The Waste Isolation Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. This repository is the only operating facility in North America. We expressed concern at the Hearing that there was no history of best practices in North America or, in fact, in the world which makes this a precarious plan to adopt right next to the Great Lakes.

When the Hearing terminated in the Fall 2013, the Joint Review Panel set out to digest all of the information presented and, in fact, they also had some important

questions for Ontario Power Generation. These questions were released to Ontario Power Generation for their study and remarks and dates were set for reporting on these studies.

As we move toward the re-opening of the Hearing in Kincardine on September 9th, the following issues remain in question:

1. A fire in the tunnel of a shaft at the Waste Isolation Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico on February 14, 2014 has closed the facility. Subsequent to the fire of a diesel engine, a plume of radiation was detected in the radiation monitoring system. To date, there is no explanation as to the cause of this radioactive plume of smoke. No one has yet been able to breach the entry of the repository because of the radiation danger. Speculation has pinned the leak on an interaction between a sealant (kitty litter) and the metal containers. Other speculative comments have been on a lax safety culture and human error. Ontario Power Generation's response is that their safety culture is tighter but human error occurs in any culture.
2. Dr. Frank Greening, a retired scientist for Ontario Power Generation, has questioned the company's use of estimated factors of radiation in their waste inventory schedule. Computer modeling was used instead of real data which Dr. Greening would have been available to provide in his capacity working on nuclear reactor pressure tubes and springs in Pickering. In fact, Dr. Greening, using the data available to him, has indicated to Ontario Power Generation that their estimates are up to 100 times less than the reality. Ontario Power Generation has denigrated Dr. Greening but agreed that his figures should be taken into account and their own estimates will be reviewed.
3. The Expert Group, headed by Dr. William Leiss, was required, by the Joint Review Panel, to evaluate all methods of permanent storage for nuclear waste and they re-iterated that all of storage methods are feasible for the next few decades. In fact, it was this Council in Kincardine who decided on the repository option.
4. The Expert Group were also asked to look at alternate sites for a repository in granite and rather than do a specific alternate site evaluation, they looked at a virtual site which has resulted in reporting using subjective data.
5. The Expert Group was also asked to do a new Risk Assessment relative to the community's tolerance for risk. Their initial feedback was that they did not know how to find that information. Their report to the Panel was a summary study of the transcripts from the Hearing last September 2013. One of their observations in that report was that those who were in opposition to the project had not suggested solutions. In fact, many speakers at the Hearing made suggestions which included a site in granite (see the location of other repositories in the world), a site on higher ground (Dr. Rhodes), a rolling stewardship (Dr. Edwards).

6. During the Hearing of Fall 2013, the question of de-commissioning waste was discussed and it was confirmed that all low and intermediate level de-commissioning waste from Ontario nuclear plants would be permanently stored in the Kincardine repository. This brings the project from an original 135,000 cu. metres of waste to 400,000 cu. metres and counting. This also tips the scale on the ratio of low level to intermediate level nuclear waste with the intermediate needing 100, 000 years to be de-contaminated.

It is the opinion of your Inverhuron electorate that this Council has signed a hosting agreement in 2005 and has not kept abreast of the concerns, questions and alterations to this project. Ontario Power Generation cannot be your only line of communication. You owe it to all residents to be vigilant as to the evolution of a proposal which will change the face of this Municipality in a very drastic manner.