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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

High Level Radioactive Waste Fight Gears Up in Bruce County

One Nuclear Waste Facility Down, One More to Go!!!

(Teeswater, ON) The campaign to stop the high level radioactive waste Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in South Bruce has gained new momentum with a recent victory and hiring of a renowned environmental lawyer.

On June 22nd, 2020 Ontario Power Generation (OPG) announced they would be formally ending plans for a low/intermediate level radioactive waste Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for the Bruce Power site near Kincardine, Ontario.

OPG has formally notified federal regulators it is ending plans for the low/intermediate waste DGR. The low/intermediate DGR project was discontinued following a vote by Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) in January 2020, whereby the SON voted overwhelmingly not to support the project in their traditional territory.

“Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste is grateful for the decision by SON community members to vote against the low/intermediate DGR and the formal cancellation of the project by OPG at the Bruce site”, said Bill Noll, Vice-President of Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste.

“The struggle however is not over as the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) continues with plans to construct a high-level radioactive waste nuclear dump within the Municipality of South Bruce”, Noll added.

Protect Our Waterways – No Nuclear Waste has hired renowned environmental lawyer David Donnelly (Donnelly Law) to continue the fight against nuclear waste dumping. The firm is one of the most experienced in the country.

“I’ve always wondered why radioactive nuclear waste isn’t buried below the majority of people who use it”, said Donnelly, who first started battling uranium mining in Saskatchewan in the 1980’s.

“Municipal Councillors are trustees with an important duty to ensure land uses do not under any circumstances conflict with existing uses. Credibly showing how agricultural and radioactive waste compliment each other is going to be a significant challenge that will be heavily scrutinized by our client”, he added.

The lands optioned by NWMO for the proposed dump site of highly radioactive waste is located approximately 30km's from Lake Huron and would be built under and around the Teeswater River, an important tributary of the Saugeen River, which flows to Lake

Huron and the Great Lakes - a source of drinking water for 40 million people in both Canada and the U.S.

The proposed highly radioactive dump site would remove an estimated 1,500 acres of prime farmland from agricultural production and replace it with an intensive mining project to effectively house this waste.

Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste continues the struggle against NWMO's plans for the high-level radioactive waste dump and invites all concerned stakeholders to join with us in preventing this project and protecting future generations.

Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste is seeking a community referendum on the issue in South Bruce and proposes the following question to South Bruce residents.

Are you in favour of constructing a DGR mining complex for the storage of all of Canada's high-level nuclear waste in South Bruce? Yes or No.

The Municipality and NWMO can no longer ignore this expression of opposition against this project from residents and regional stakeholders.

Quick facts about why a referendum is needed:

- Over 1,500 residents of South Bruce have signed the petition to date through both hard copy and online.
- This represents a significant opposition to the project at a time when Covid-19 limits contact for obtaining signatures.
- By contrast, in the last South Bruce Municipal election, 2,153 residents cast a ballot for the current Mayor and Council.
- The online change.org petition has gathered over **11,000 signatures** from regional stakeholders in neighbouring municipalities and waste transportation corridors concerned about this project and expressing opposition. For more information visit: www.protectsouthbruce-nodgr.org

Email: nodgrsouthbruce@gmail.com

David Donnelly: david@donnellylaw.ca