

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2020

### **PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS - NO NUCLEAR WASTE PARTNERS WITH WELLINGTON WATER WATCHERS TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR DUMP IN SOUTH BRUCE**

**Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste** announces that it is teaming up with Wellington Water Watchers, the powerful environmental advocacy group, to prevent the establishment of a nuclear waste dump for highly radioactive waste in South Bruce. Under this new partnership, Wellington Water Watchers commits to do ‘everything it can’ to help stop the proposed nuclear waste dump.

“We have met with Wellington Water Watchers (WWW) several times over the past few weeks to learn from their successful campaigns to help communities protect groundwater” said Michelle Stein, Chair of the Protect Our Waterways board. “WWW’s persistent advocacy helped force Nestlé’s Waters Canada to sell their operations in Wellington County. They helped the community of Guelph Eramosa defeat a proposal by Xinyi Glass for a production facility that would have removed 1.6 million litres of water/day from the aquifer. WWW supports a number of communities who are fighting to protect groundwater in their communities from aggregate extraction. The experience WWW has in helping grassroots groups like ours to organize to protect groundwater will be of immense help to the community.”

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization is proposing to conduct an experiment within the community of South Bruce. Nowhere in the world is there a deep geological repository for irradiated nuclear fuel. Incredibly, the South Bruce site is the only one proposed as a high-level radioactive waste dump in the world without a buffer from communities, schools and businesses.

Underground storage sites for nuclear waste in the United States and Germany have leaked radioactive material and required multi-billion-dollar cleanups.

Twenty of the twenty-two municipalities the NWMO has studied are no longer under consideration after local opposition, social or technical reasons caused investigations to be discontinued.

Mike Balkwill, campaign director with Wellington Water Watchers since 2016, has more than 30 years’ experience supporting grassroots leaders to organize in their communities. In 2006 Mike supported People Against Radioactive Contamination in their successful campaign to defeat a proposal by Mississauga Metals and Alloys for an incinerator for low-level radioactive waste in Brampton, Ontario.

“The nuclear industry has been engaged for several years in an effort to download its waste problems on to small communities who don’t have the same resources to defend themselves as larger communities. It’s part of NWMO’s strategy – to site projects like this in small communities,” said Balkwill. “They have lots of money to spend on short-term incentives. And in the background, they have the support of federal and provincial governments. Now only South Bruce and Ignace appear to be under consideration. We can expect the NWMO to create enormous pressure on the municipal Council and community to accept their proposal. Resisting the NWMO will be a David and Goliath struggle. But as we know from that story, David can win” concludes Balkwill.

“We agree with Protect Our Waterways that water is essential to life. It is incredible to me that the NWMO would even think about burying and then abandoning nuclear waste so close to the Great Lakes” said Arlene Slocombe, WWW Executive Director. “It is in the interest of everyone who lives in the Great Lakes basin to stop this misguided proposal.”

Protect Our Waterways - No Nuclear Waste is pleased to have the support of Wellington Water Watchers in its struggle to prevent the establishment of a nuclear waste dump site in South Bruce.

### **Take Action Now!**

#### **For more information visit:**

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