IGNACE: IT IS YOUR DECISION TIME.

On March 18 the Township of Ignace signed a “hosting agreement” with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. The agreement will come into effect as a binding contract between the NWMO and the Township of Ignace if or when the Township delivers a statement to the NWMO that Ignace is a “Willing Host”.

Between April 26 and April 30, an online poll is open for Ignace residents to “vote” on whether they “want the Township (of Ignace) to continue participating in the (NWMO) process and to proceed as a potential host community”.

It’s a package deal. Voting “yes” means Ignace stays in the NWMO siting process and commits to supporting the NWMO’s nuclear waste burial project but it ALSO means agreeing to all the obligations and surrendering of rights set out in the “hosting agreement” which has already been signed by the Township of Ignace. The hosting agreement would become a permanent and binding contract if the NWMO selects the Revell site between Ignace and Dryden for the DGR.

The Hosting Agreement is posted on the Ignace website at https://www.ignace.ca/town-hall/willingness-dgr-process. It’s long, but it is important to read it before you vote.

Here’s some of what we found in the March 18 agreement:

- it binds future municipal councils; elections and changes of councils won’t change the obligations the Township has signed up for with the March 18 hosting agreement
- it requires future councils to show up at the request of the NWMO at meetings, forums and hearings and speak in support of the project, regardless of future concerns or how future residents and councils view the project
- information about the implementation of the project will be confidential, limited to a very few; this includes scientific and technical information about the project and its impacts
- even communications from the municipality to its residents – that’s you – will be subject to the approval of the NWMO
- it commits the Township to providing support and services but does not commit the NWMO to paying for them.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization intends to select a single site for a deep geological repository (DGR) for all of Canada’s high-level radioactive waste. The project will include transporting, processing, burying and eventually abandoning the highly radioactive wastes at the chosen site.

There will be radioactive releases during each of these sets of activities even without an accident. The project will bring new security concerns into the region. The effects of radiation affect us at a cellular level and can cause harm that shows up decades later and is passed on to our children and grandchildren.

The nuclear industry in Canada has been promoting the idea of nuclear waste burial for decades but the NWMO has not produced a detailed plan. In 2021 they published a “concept report” but important parts of the project are still not described or tested. There is no deep geological repository for high-level nuclear waste approved or operating anywhere in the world (DGR’s in Finland & Sweden’s are under review and do not have a licence to operate).

VOTING IS IMPORTANT. REGISTER AT WWW.YOURCHOICEIGNACE.CA.
CALL THE CONSULTANTS AT 1 807 697 0565 FOR HELP WITH THE VOTING PROCESS.

The consultants With Chéla will be at the Ignace arena from April 26-30 and can help you vote in person if you don’t have a computer. Call them at 1 807 697 0565 for help or to confirm the hours they will be at the arena.

A note for those who are thinking of abstaining: maybe you don’t trust the process or you are still undecided about how you want to vote. Abstaining will have the same effect as a “yes”.

If you are uncertain, vote “no”.

This message is coming to you from your friends and neighbours with We the Nuclear Free North. You can reach us online at www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca, email us at nuclearfreenorth@gmail.com, or call us at 1 855 225 8055.
WHAT’S THE PROBLEM WITH THE NWMO’S “WILLINGNESS” PROCESS?

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization says it will only proceed with the selection of a site for their deep geological repository project where there is an “informed and willing community”.

But the question of “willingness” is being asked before you have answers you need about the NWMO project.

- The NWMO’s “plan” to transport, process and bury high-level nuclear waste is not a complete plan. It includes several “concepts” that are still being developed, and there are large gaps in the information available about the project. How can residents be informed about a plan that hasn’t been fully made?

- The NWMO’s siting process requires that the community decide it is “willing” before it gains important information through the federal impact assessment, which is the public review process to assess the potential positive and negative effects of proposed projects, with input from experts and other stakeholders, including the public and potentially affected residents.

- To vote in the online poll between April 26th and 30th you must be a resident or property owner in Ignace, but the project puts many others at risk: those living along the transportation route and those living downstream, including those living closer to the Revell site than residents of Ignace. Ignace is 45 km away and in a different watershed. Shouldn’t those who share the risk share in the decision? Can a community be “host” to a project 45 km away?

Seven reason to vote NO (you might have more!)

| VOTE NO | If you are uncertain about the project or about the hosting agreement; if you say ‘yes’ the decision is permanent and irrevocable, there will not be a second chance |
| VOTE NO | If you think the hosting agreement doesn’t give a fair deal for Ignace, either in financial benefits or making sure that the NWMO will pay their fair share |
| VOTE NO | If you believe that future municipal councils and residents – including you – should have the same democratic rights that you and the current council have today |
| VOTE NO | If you are concerned about several trucks per day hauling high-level radioactive waste on northern highways, including Highway 17 as it passes through Ignace |
| VOTE NO | If the radioactive releases from transportation packages, the used fuel processing plant and the deep geological repository and their impacts on human health and the environment concern you |
| VOTE NO | If you are concerned about the risk of a catastrophic accident or the transports or DGR site being a military target |
| VOTE NO | If you believe it is an intergenerational injustice to burden people not yet born with the impacts caused by burying radioactive waste |
| VOTE NO | If you believe your friends and relatives and others along the transportation route and in the vicinity of the project and downstream- the people who share the risks- should also have a say |

LET’S TALK ABOUT IT!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 AT 6 PM CENTRAL. Details are at decision2024.ca

TUNE IN FOR AN ONLINE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE MARCH 18 IGNACE HOSTING AGREEMENT AND THE APRIL 26-30 ONLINE POLL FOR RESIDENTS OF IGNACE. YOU CAN ALSO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NWMO PROJECT.

Go to decision2024.ca for the registration link, details about how to join or how to watch a livestream of the webinar and for more links and information. Or call We the Nuclear Free North at 1.855.225.8055