

May 23, 2021

Dear NRCan Board members:

The effects of Climate change is increasing the risk of severe weather events, especially tornados, from striking nuclear facilities, as well as the many temporary waste storage silos at all nuclear reactor sites in Canada. Many of these aging silos are nearing the end of their temporary storage life-cycle and may not have been designed and built to last this long or to withstand severe tornados or hurricanes that are increasingly likely to occur at the numerous waste storage facilities. These are the questions NRCan must be ready to respond to:

1. With the strong possibility that no DGR will be approved, built and put into service in the next two decades or more, can NRCan guarantee a satisfactory level of security for all of the temporary concrete and steel nuclear waste silos now storing over 58,000 tons of CANDU spent fuel from the impacts of severe weather events?
2. Can the level of storage security be measured and monitored to reassure the growing number of concerned Canadians that they will continue to be safe?
3. Can NRCan provide proof that the nuclear waste silos will be safe from severe weather events after 100-plus years of “temporary” storage?
4. What is the contingency plan if no agreeable and acceptable host community for a DGR location can be found soon? (There are only two locations under consideration today.)

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