

Citizens' Network on Waste Management

17 Major Street, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 4R1
April 2, 2022

Comments on *Draft: Modernizing Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning*, February 1, 2022

We were shocked to read point 1.2 in this draft policy that says:

The Federal Government **has** established a legislative and regulatory regime centred on an independent nuclear regulator ...”
[bolding added]

The use of the word “has” in the draft policy seems to be asserting that the present decision-making and regulatory system is just fine.

This assertion is directly contradictory to the frequently repeated comments that we heard at the forums that we participated in during the consultation period. In your final *What We Heard: Modernizing Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning*, you report:

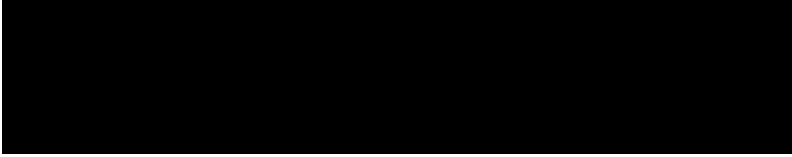
“we heard concerns that the CNSC and the NWMO appeared to have an overly close relationship with industry [they] asked for an agency independent of government and the nuclear industry. [pp 20 & 21]”

To respond to this in the draft policy by saying that the government already has a fine system is to ignore the experience of numerous people. A regulatory system that lacks the respect of so many people clearly points to the need for the government to make significant changes.

We support the changes in regulatory structures that Nuclear Waste Watch's Radioactive Waste Review Group submitted to you in March 2022 as *An Alternative Policy for Canada on Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning*. We also support the other items in their brief.

We urge you to adopt the “Alternative Policy” prepared by Nuclear Waste Watch’s Radioactive Waste Review Group.

Yours sincerely,

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