

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
ORGANISATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**15 February 2011**

**KIMO CONDEMS HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHIPMENT**

Last Friday, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission approved the proposed shipment of 16 bus-sized radioactive steam generators across the Great Lakes on the Canadian / US border to a Studsvik plant on the Swedish Baltic coast.



Bruce Power applied in April 2010 to transport the 16 steam contaminators to Sweden, where the company Studsvik will decontaminate around 90% of the materials – and sell the decontaminated scrap metal on the open market – and return the generators to Canada, where they will be stored at a facility by the Canadian utility. According to CCNR, the radioactive levels of the generators exceed the legal limits of the International Atomic Energy Authority Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials by 50 times (1).

The shipments will contain materials like caesium, iodine-129 and tritium, which even at low levels are potentially dangerous to human health, and have to go through UK,

Norwegian, Danish and Swedish territorial waters after receiving permission from each Government. KIMO International is writing to these Governments to outline its concern and request that they refuse permission for this shipments which help set a precedent that it is acceptable to ship radioactive materials around the world for treatment.

KIMO President Mayor Albert de Hoop stated, *“These shipments go completely against the proximity principle where the communities which have benefited from the power produced should deal with the waste generated. Instead coastal communities all along the transport route are being put at risk and the treatment will result in emissions to the Baltic Sea, which is already one of the most radioactive in the world. I will be writing to the regulators in the affected countries and in Canada to request permission is not granted for these shipments and that these steam generators are treated and stored at Ontario Power Generation’s Western Waste Management Facility as was originally planned.”*

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **(1) Media release of the Council of Canadians**

***MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release, February 5, 2011  
Council of Canadians condemns CNSC approval of radioactive shipments through Great Lakes***

The Council of Canadians condemns the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's decision late Friday to approve the transport of 16 radioactive steam generators by ship across the Great Lakes to Sweden.

"The Great Lakes is a shared commons, public trust and protected bioregion," says national chairperson Maude Barlow. "These shipments will put the drinking water of 40 million people at risk. Announcing this decision late on a Friday is a clear indication that the CNSC knows that there will be widespread opposition to their decision."

Last April, Bruce Power applied for a special license from the CNSC because the steam generators failed to meet CNSC's own Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations. The radioactive levels also exceed legal limits set out in the International Atomic Energy Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material by 50 times.

Bruce Power plans to ship the 16 bus size steam generators to Sweden for decontamination, with the most radioactive parts of the generators being transported back across the Great

Lakes and stored near its nuclear power plant on Lake Huron. The corporation has at least 64 steam generators that it wants to ship to Sweden.

"These shipments set an extremely dangerous precedent," says national water campaigner Emma Lui. "This opens the door to transporting radioactive waste that exceeds legal limits across our lakes."

The International Institute of Concern for Public Health has noted that radionuclides found in Great Lakes water, including tritium, carbon-14, caesium and long-lived iodine-129, pose serious health hazards even at low levels. An accident with just one of Bruce Power's numerous planned shipments could prove to be disastrous.

Nearly 80 groups provided written submissions and half of them - including the Council of Canadians - intervened at a public hearing last September in Ottawa. The groups expressed concerns regarding Bruce Power's insufficient emergency response plans, the lack of an environmental assessment and the failure to consult adequately with communities.

(2) A copy of KIMO Resolution 1/96 on the Transportation of Nuclear Waste by Air and Sea can be found at <http://www.kimointernational.org/KIMOResolutions.aspx>