

February 4th, 2026

To: The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

RE: Call for a full Impact Assessment and Public Hearings on the Transportation of Nuclear Waste

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has significant concerns about the dangers of nuclear power throughout its life cycle. Therefore, over many years we have developed strong precautionary policies to communicate with federal and provincial legislators and meaningfully participate in regulatory hearings.

Our most recent 2024 policy directly relates to the transport of nuclear waste: <https://www.ncwcanada.ca/blog/n-31/safe-transportation-of-nuclear-waste-883>

In 2025, we joined 'We The Nuclear Free North' and 72 other Canada-wide groups in calling for federal government oversight of this project.

The NCWC therefore joins thousands of Canadians in stating that a full Impact assessment and public hearings should be required and that the transport of nuclear waste must be a significant component of the current review of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) "Initial Project Description."

The NCWC also believes it is imperative that the Impact Assessment Agency (IAA), Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), and NWMO consider the immediate and long-term environmental, social, health, and welfare impacts on Canadians when reviewing NWMO's proposed initial deep geologic repository plan. A plan that involves transporting high-level, highly dangerous nuclear waste over very long distances from current locations to a site in northern Ontario.

We further request that IAA and CNSC—as joint planners and eventual approvers/regulators of the project—seriously consider the following questions:

1. Why has NWMO severely weakened its overall project plan by excluding transportation, on the false premise that it is handled by other government regulatory bodies?
2. In its 2021 Plan called transportation "an absolutely key component. "Will public voices be heard and acted upon by NWMO to make reasonable precautionary changes to the Draft Plan? 1.

3. Will IAA staff, CNSC, and NWMO emulate the Seaborn Panel's practice and final directions—when recommending the their importance in the formation of the NWMO—by including and respecting independent scientists as they evaluate this new plan for a Deep Geological Repository and Transportation?

We look forward to receiving notice of actions taken.

Sincerely,

Penny Rankin

President

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**This letter was prepared by NCWC VP Environment Gracia Janes gracia.janes@bellnet.ca

Mission Statement:

To empower all women to work together towards improving the quality of life for women, families, and society through a forum of member organizations and individuals.