

Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

Aug. 3, 2020

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan
Minister of Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Invitation to hold public consultations in New Brunswick on national radioactive waste policy

Dear Minister O'Regan:

Thank you for your letter of July 10, 2020 responding to the request of 100 public interest groups to be considered stakeholders in public consultations for developing a comprehensive radioactive waste policy and strategies. As one of the groups signing the original letter dated May 15, the Coalition for Responsible Energy-New Brunswick (CRED-NB) was pleased with your stated intention to reach out to our groups before launching the engagement process to determine how best to solicit our feedback.

To facilitate engagement with Indigenous peoples, stakeholders, and the people of New Brunswick, we invite you to come to our province and hold public consultations in person in accordance with provincial physical distancing requirements and national protocols. In-person public consultations could also be live-streamed to increase their reach.

Our request for in-person consultation stems from the large stockpile of nuclear waste stored in 200 concrete silos at Point Lepreau, and the active proposals for two new nuclear power plants as well as a waste fuel reprocessing facility for extracting fissile material, including plutonium, for the same site. Consequently, New Brunswickers could be on the front lines of technologies that would add concentrated irradiated fuel and non-fuel wastes to our existing stockpile, and increase the risk of nuclear proliferation.

Given these alarming implications, we are convinced that only through in-person consultation can the concerns of Indigenous peoples, stakeholders and the public be expressed and heard fully, fairly and openly.

We look forward to your response to our invitation at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly,
Ann McAllister
For the Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

cc Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick
Green Party of Canada Caucus: Jenica Atwin, Paul Manley, Elizabeth May
NDP of Canada Critic for Natural Resources: Richard Cannings