



IROQUOIS CAUCUS | ANISHINABEK NATION

April 20, 2017

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

The Anishinabek Nation and the Iroquois Caucus recently met in Toronto to discuss a proposal to transport highly radioactive liquid material from Chalk River, Ontario, to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina in a series of over 100 truckloads. We have unified and strongly opposed this proposal as these shipments would of necessity enter the US along roads and bridges on or adjacent to some of our traditional territories.

We understand that a small amount of this radioactive liquid, just a fraction of a litre, can contaminate hundreds of millions of litres of water to levels far exceeding the current drinking water limits. As we have never relinquished our ongoing commitment to protect the lands and waters of our traditional territories, we are naturally concerned.

We have seen accidents such as the pile-up of tractor-trailers near the 1000 Island Bridge on March 14, 2017. That accident involved the spill of a highly toxic liquid, requiring decontamination of first responders. Had the spill involved a radioactive liquid shipment from Chalk River, the consequences could have been much worse.

These unprecedented radioactive liquid shipments were agreed to by then President Obama and then Prime Minister Harper in 2012, as part of an effort to eliminate foreign stocks of weapons-grade uranium of US origin. We are accordingly writing to you as the current Prime Minister of Canada to reconsider this option, as the Government of Canada has failed to consult our Nations.

Down-blending is a procedure for eliminating weapons-grade uranium on the Chalk River site, thereby making the liquid transports unnecessary. Has down-blending been considered as a safer alternative? If so, why has this alternative been dropped?

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It has also come to our attention that the same type of radioactive liquid has routinely been solidified at Chalk River since 2003. Why has solidification not been required for all radioactive liquids at Chalk River?

As these shipments from Chalk River are scheduled to begin this spring, we would appreciate a prompt response to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee
Grand Council Chief
Anishinabek Nation



Joe Tokwiro Norton
Grand Chief
Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke
On behalf of Iroquois Caucus

Cc. Chief Troy Thompson
Chief Clinton Phillips
Chief R. Donald Maracle
Chief Paul Eshkakogan
Chief James Marsden
Chief Pierre Pelletier
Chief Joe Miskokomon
Anishinabek Nation
Regional Chief Isadore Day, Ontario
Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, Quebec