Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to construct a series of caverns in limestone deep below the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station site and beside Lake Huron to first place and then abandon up to 400,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste.

One of their earliest studies showed that a key difference between this and other options was cost, with the Deep Geologic Repository expected to cost significantly more. The 2012 price tag was over $2 billion for a repository half the size of what OPG is now intending. These costs can be expected to be significantly higher, given that OPG now intends to double the amount of waste to be buried. OPG's track record of cost overruns on nuclear construction projects also suggests that this $2 billion-plus cost – which will be passed on to ratepayers - will multiply.

A federal review panel last year heard expert evidence that OPG had failed to examine alternatives and that there were numerous technical uncertainties, including uncertainty about the volume, types and radioactivity of the wastes and the predictions about how long the proposed repository would contain the radioactivity. The hearing has been extended, and is expected to recommence this fall. Opposition continues to grow both locally and around the Great Lakes, with more than 50 municipalities – their population totaling more than 10 million residents – and 56,000 individuals now having registered their opposition through petitions and resolutions.

U.S. state legislators have also expressed opposition to the project and are asking President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, the U.S. Congress and other parties to intervene and stop the proposed Deep Geologic Repository.

Given that it is a nuclear facility, a federal approval is required, but key decisions to proceed - including the allocation of funds – are provincial.

Q. If elected, will you direct OPG to suspend its efforts to bury nuclear waste beneath the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Undecided

Comment (optional):

Q. Will your government commission an independent examination of alternatives to nuclear waste burial and submit the findings to the Legislature?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Undecided

Comment (optional):

Thank you for taking time during this busy election period to share your responses on these important questions. For more information email bruceburial@ontera.net or call 705 497 0373.
REFERENCES

1 Section 1.2.3 of the 2009 Environmental Impact Statement provided an estimate of 200,000 cubic metres radioactive wastes. In response to Information Request 12-512 in April 2014 Ontario Power Generation indicated that they had also assessed the feasibility of an expansion of the DGR to a capacity of 400,000 cubic metres. OPG has stated an intention to double the original proposed volume by adding decommissioning waste to the repository.

2 OPG responded to the Joint Review Panel Information Request EIS-05-224 with a cost estimate of over $2 billion. An earlier cost estimate of $1 billion included in OPG DGR Environmental Impact Statement, 2009, Volume 1, Section 1.2.5 including only the early stages of the project. Both cost estimates are based on an estimated volume of 200,000 cubic metres. The revised volume estimate, including decommissioning wastes, is 400,000 cubic metres.

3 For example, see “Canadian Press: "Darlington price tag rises to $14.4 billion", The Toronto Star, March 4, 1993 or Ontario Clean Air Alliance at http://www.cleanairalliance.org/files/active/0/NuclearHandout_v5.pdf

4 See the hearing record, including transcripts and filed documents on the public registry at www.cea.gc.ca/050/documents-eng.cfm?evaluation=17520

5 As of May 2014, postings at www.stopthegreatlakesnukerdump.com

6 “Michigan lawmakers ask Canada to scrap plans for nuclear waste dump on Lake Huron”, The Voice News, Michigan, 22 May 2014, as posted at www.voicenews.com/articles/2014/05/22/news/doc537e1f40c370f008737408.txt

For more information about Ontario Power Generation’s proposed Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Wastes visit www.bruce-nuclear-waste-burial.ca