

POSITION PAPER

PRESENTED TO:

THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANGEMENT ORGANIZATION
49 JACQUES AVENUE, FIRST FLOOR,
TORONTO, ON
M4T 1E2

PRESENTED BY:

THE EAST COAST FIRST PEOPLE ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX, 2143,
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POSITION PAPER ON PHASE II OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCESS

TRADITIONAL BELIEF

“ We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors.
We borrow it from our children.”

PREAMBLE

The East Coast First People Alliance is pleased to present a position paper on the results of its involvement in the Nuclear Waste Management Process. The preparation of this paper is a result of the synthesis of a number of factors including the following;

- The East Coast First People Alliance Board of Directors and Presidents of the Zones met at a 2-day workshop on Nuclear Waste Management conducted in Bathurst, New Brunswick on November 6 & 7, 2004 at the Atlantic Host Hotel. The meeting was facilitated by R. Jack Falkins, from Native Trading House, who had previously been involved in the Regional Dialogues conducted in North Bay, Ontario on March 4, 2004 and March 27, 2004, facilitated the OMAA Board of Directors Workshop in Ottawa on April 14, 2004 and authored the position paper for the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association.

BACKGROUND ON THE EAST COAST FIRST PEOPLE ALLIANCE

The East Coast First People Alliance is a non-profit corporation incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act (# 359 502-1) since March 1999. Originally founded to provide representation to a large number of un-represented off-reserve Aboriginal people in New Brunswick, the association has responded to the political, social, and economic aspirations of Métis, Inuit and off-reserve non-status and status Indians in New Brunswick. It has a membership approaching 5,900 members. Current programs provide student' bursaries, firearms support programs, day care and guardian assistance programs and a school lunch program for students in need. The expressed desire of the organization is to secure and deliver programs and services which will enable New Brunswick Métis and off-reserve Indian and Inuit population to reach their full potential and realize economic, cultural, social and spiritual wellness, while becoming more economically independent and self-reliant.

Governed by an 12 member Board of Directors representing the twelve geographic regions of New Brunswick, East Coast First People Alliance has tackled a number of issues important to the Aboriginal communities across the Province including:

- Promoting healthy communities,
- Protecting natural resources from loss and exploitation,
- Fighting environmental issues,
- Timber rights,
- Taxation,
- Gaming,
- Minority rights,
- Land claims,
- Harvesting Rights (Powley),
- Aboriginal cultural issues and traditional practices,
- Housing and social justice, and
- Economic development, education and jobs.

As the only inclusive organization involving all of the off-reserve aboriginal peoples in New Brunswick it is only natural that East Coast First People Alliance be involved in engagement and consultations involving such an important issue as Nuclear Waste Management. While our participation to date cannot be classed as intensive it is none the less significant from our perspective. Our participation in the workshop and subsequent production of a position paper and ongoing engagement in the next phase of this dialogue should illustrate our sincere interest in this regional, provincial, national and global concern.

The Administrative Council and Board of Directors of East Coast First People Alliance wish to thank the NWMO for allowing our participation to date and look forward to even further engagement in the coming months.

POSITIONS ON SELECTED ISSUES

All Board members received in advance of the workshop the NWMO's publication '*Asking the Right Questions*' The Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, '*Understanding the Choices*', '*Assessing the Options*' and '*Action Responsible*'. In addition through the workshop they reviewed the following documentation:

- National Stakeholders and regional Dialogue sessions,
- NWMO Background reports: Looking Forward to learn-Future Scenarios,
- Assembly of First Nations Report,
- Te Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association position paper,
- Inuit Tapirit Kanatami year end report.

All of these texts were used as the basis for the workshop since they greatly assisted the participants in focusing on the important issues that need to be considered in this and future phases of the process.

FORMAT OF WORKSHOP

This workshop was conducted in a manner that was culturally appropriate and sensitive to the traditional methods of discussion involving aboriginals. Medicine Woman Denise O. Chiasson lead the group in prayer and sought the blessing of the Creator on the proceedings of each day and asked that the Creator provide wisdom to the participants during their deliberations.

PARTICIPANTS

Those participating in the workshop included the following;

Domitien Paulin, President of East Coast First People Alliance
Roland Chiasson Vice President East Coast First People Alliance
Alfred Chiasson Secretary Treasurer East Coast First People Alliance

(Zone 1)

Patricia Roy
Raymond Landry
Laurent Belisle
Benoit Caissie
Bernard Pallot

(Zone 2)

Denise O. Chiasson
Leo Chiasson

(Zone 3)

Guilmont Turgeon

(Zone 5)

Christine Pelletier

(Zone 6)

Jamie Hachey

(Zone 7)

Roger Doiron
Raymond Doiron

(Zone 8)

Jason Foote

(Zone 9)

Germaine Daigle

(Zone 11)
Gordon Hachey

Frank Branch MLA Nepisiquit Chaleur
R. Jack Falkins Manager Native Trading House

AGENDA

Prior to the meeting an agenda for the day was developed and was approved by the participants. A copy of the agenda is attached as Schedule A to this paper.

POWERPOINT

The facilitator had prepared a Powerpoint presentation to illustrate the relevant points to be covered during the day's deliberations. A hard copy of that presentation was attached to the position paper of The Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association and an electronic version is also enclosed.

INITIAL OVERVIEW

The group viewed the DVD Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel: Invitation to dialogue and were then given an opportunity to ask any questions resulting from the video.

Subsequent to the video the facilitator reviewed the issues and covered such topics as:

- Nuclear Fuel, including the fuel pellets and fuel bundles,
- The hazards of nuclear fuel including radioactivity, heat and toxicity,
- Nuclear Power and Research Reactors in New Brunswick and elsewhere in Canada,
- Used Nuclear Fuel storage methods currently being employed,
- Current monitoring of nuclear fuel in Canada, (both the methods & the agencies),
- History of long term management in New Brunswick and elsewhere in Canada,
- Security issues involving storage of spent nuclear fuel,
- NWMO and Aboriginal people

The rationale behind the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in the process including the recommendations from the Seaborne report, were reviewed with the attendees. During, and at the conclusion of this portion of the agenda, questions from the E.C.F.P.A. members on specific were answered. Some involved more information on the nuclear process.

TECHNICAL METHODS

R. Jack Falkins reviewed the technical methods section of the workshop with the attendees. This included covering the following areas in detail.

1. Key terms to consider and understand including:
 - a. Disposal
 - b. Storage
 - c. Treatment
2. Limited Interest Options
 - a. Under this section the attendees reviewed a number of potential options for addressing the problem. These included;
 - i. Direct injection,
 - ii. Rock melting,
 - iii. Sub seabed disposal
 - iv. Disposal at sea,
 - v. Disposal in ice sheets,
 - vi. Disposal in subduction zones,
 - vii. Disposal in space,
 - viii. Dilution and dispersion

(b) After a review of this section those in attendance were allowed to ask questions or proffer opinions on the viability of these options. There was unanimous opposition to any method, involving disposal in the seas of the world, or those, which breached international conventions. It appeared clear to the attendees that the other methods, given the lack of practicability, dearth of research information or lack of clear cost/benefit estimates, would appear to point to their present or potential lack of viability, but the group believes that Canada should continue to study those methods and maintain a watching brief on other research across the world on those methods. In fact the group believes that Canada should take the lead on research on some of these options and actually spend funds.

3. International Attention Methods
 - a. Under this section those in attendance reviewed a number of potential options for addressing the problem. These included;
 - i. Reprocessing, partitioning and transmutation,
 - ii. Storage or disposal at international repository.
 - b. The majority of those in attendance concurred that reprocessing, partitioning and transmutation would bear further research and consideration. As technology and knowledge improves in the future, it is reasonable to assume that methods presently unknown or not envisaged would materialize, much as other information has been discovered in the last 50 years. Progress in this technology might hold out the greatest hope of discovering methods to make the

timeline for risk much more manageable, or create other uses for the spent fuel or component parts.

- c. With regard to the option of storage or disposal at an international repository, most participants adhered to the notion that those that produce the waste should be required to deal with it. There was concern expressed about transportation of the waste to an international repository since that would most likely involve ocean travel, raising the possibility of accidents. Many members raised concerns about a host country/region being lured by the potential for financial gain without due consideration given to concerns as to how this may affect other nations or regions, either nearby or far removed. The group suggested that money should not be considered a factor in whatever disposal option or location is considered.

4. Methods Requiring Review

- a. Inasmuch as the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* requires the NWMO to investigate in detail three management methods, the E.C.F.P.A. then considered these three options in greater detail than the limited options. The three that were examined included the following:
 - i. Deep Geological Disposal
 - ii. Centralized storage
 - iii. Reactor-site extended storage
- b. Those attending agreed that the Deep Geological disposal method would be of interest to many countries and many agencies. "Out of sight, out of mind" is a powerful attraction, and one that has fuelled disposal of many harmful agents throughout the years. Of course history has taught us that "out of sight" does not equate with safety, security, minimal risk or even the concept of disposal as it is framed in the text '*Asking the Rights Questions*.' If one considers disposal as being a method of isolating the destructive agent from humanity and the environment, with the method being conclusive and without the intention of retrieval or reuse, then many attempts at disposal of harmful agents have fallen far short of this definition. One only has to recall the Love Canal or the Sydney Tar Ponds incidents to refresh our memory as to how previous governments, corporations, or agencies, have proposed a final solution that ultimately came back to wreck havoc on the environment and those living organisms located in the area. The Board expressed concern however at this being the 'preferred' method of disposal. They made the following observations and or recommendations:
 - i. Deep geological disposal would by analogy require the transportation of nuclear waste from present reactor-site limited-term storage sites to a disposal site. Given the present state of infrastructure in Canada concern was

- expressed about dispersal of the used fuel in transit, either through accident (air, rail or road all present potential accident scenarios) or terrorism or unauthorized agent retrieval;
- ii. They believe that deep geological burial requires more study, especially regarding issues of seepage, since they have a major concern over the quality of water,
 - iii. Some members of the group expressed concern that the technological issues still appear questionable. Geologists and miners clearly indicate that there is no such thing as 'solid' rock. All is porous to some extent thereby increasing the probability of migration of radioactive and/or toxic elements from the repository, thereby increasing the risk to the groundwater systems and the nearby eco-systems. Even with the use of multiple barriers limiting such migration potential members felt the serious impact on the eco-systems in the area by such migration bear more careful examination and research.
 - iv. Should the favored method be deep geological disposal it would appear that a staged approach to sealing the repository would be more beneficial allowing for retrieval if other technological advances warrant such retrieval for say reprocessing, partitioning or transmutation. This method would also allow a more exact method of monitoring, which may be beneficial in detecting difficulties not presently ascertainable. The group believes that the producers of the waste may favour deep geological burial as a 'bury it and move on' solution.
- c. Centralized storage would appear to be a more likely scenario than deep geological disposal from the attendee's viewpoint although that option also bears inherent risks. These include;
- i. The same transportation issues as presented in the deep geological disposal proposal. The state of infrastructure in New Brunswick poses real issues in this matter and there is a real concern about transport by water. The group felt that the major cities the waste would have to travel through from New Brunswick to reach the Shield (namely Quebec City, Montreal or Ottawa) if travelling by rail or road, would present insurmountable difficulties,
 - ii. Should the storage be above or below ground to answer security issues,
 - iii. Where should the storage be located (close to available infrastructure or remote locations away from population bases?),

- iv. The durability of the storage facilities that require more frequent replacement than say deep geological disposal, and
- v. The cost/benefit analysis of multiple versus single site location, which would also cover the issue of accidental release, catastrophic occurrences, terrorism incidents, forces of nature or similar events.

The E.C.F.P.A. would subscribe to greater research into these and other issues applicable to centralized storage in the hope that adequate answers can be provided to these questions.

- d. The final method requiring review is reactor-site extended storage. Of the three methods presented E.C.F.P.A. believes this one merits very careful consideration, if not eventual adoption. Discussion on this method centered on the following observations;
 - i. Reactor-site extended storage eliminates all transportation concerns presently expressed,
 - ii. It would clearly minimize the potential for a single large catastrophe by spreading the problem over multiple sites with smaller quantities of used nuclear fuel,
 - iii. Since this is the method being used to store such used fuel to date, without observable difficulty, the extension of this process merely increases the time line that these methods must be continued,
 - iv. This method would require each province that has elected to use nuclear energy to deal with its own wastes, not shipping them to another province or location.
 - v. The communities within which such facilities are presently located already have come to grips with the reality of dealing with the nuclear issue in their backyard, and leaving it there obviates the necessity of educating the potential storage community and securing community acceptance to the management of nuclear fuel,
 - vi. Extended storage allows for easy retrieval of the fuel for other uses (not yet invented), reprocessing, partitioning or transmutation (should scientific knowledge progress to allow such procedures to be safe, economical and practical) or for ultimate disposal should some method be discovered that adequately meets all concerns about a conclusive disposal without intention of retrieval or reuse.
- e. The participants of this process firmly believe that scientific knowledge will no doubt create the answer to this issue in the near future. Fifty years ago knowledge of many of the things we take for granted was non-existent or in the realm of science fiction. With the exponential increase in our knowledge base it is probable, if not inevitable, that resolutions which appear unattainable today will be commonplace. Should we elect disposal as a method of management given the inherent unknowns and known difficulties,

we may inadvertently be creating another Love Canal situation. Later knowledge may provide finite solutions that obviate the need to take such present risks.

- f. The E.C.F.P.A. also adopts the view of the Ontario Regional participants that the definition of storage is acceptable and further that there be some effort expended in defining 'future activities' since that will assist with understanding and assessing the merits of the proposed storage methods contemplated.

ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The E.C.F.P.A. directors considered the 'Key Questions' outlined in '*Asking the Right Questions.*'

Reviewed were these questions, which included;

OVER-ARCHING ASPECTS

Institutions & Governance: Does the management approach have a foundation of rules, incentives, programs and capacities that ensure all operational consequences will be addressed for many years to come?

Engagement and Participation in Decision Making: Does the management approach provide for deliberate and full public engagement through different phases of the implementation?

Aboriginal Values: Have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approach

Ethical Considerations: Is the process for selecting, assessing and implementing the management approach one that is fair and equitable to our generation, and future generations?

Synthesis & Continuous Learning: When considered together, do the different components of the assessment suggest that the management approach will contribute to an overall improvement in human and eco-system well-being over the long term? Is there provision for continuous learning?

SOCIAL ASPECTS

Human Health, Safety and Well-being: Does the management approach ensure that people's health, safety and well-being are maintained (or improved) now and over the long term?

Security: Does this method of dealing with used nuclear fuel adequately contribute to human security? Will the management approach result in reduced access to nuclear materials by terrorists or other unauthorized agents?

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

Environmental Integrity: Does the management approach ensure the long-term integrity of the environment?

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Economic Viability: Is the economic viability of the management approach assured and will the economy of the community (and future communities) be maintained or improved as a result?

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Technical Adequacy: Is the technical adequacy of the management approach assured and are design, construction and implementation of the method(s) used in the management approach based on the best available technical and scientific insight?

The Board members were unable to add any new considerations that ought to be added to the process. The Board agreed that all these questions should be considered in relation to each of the management options examined. From the viewpoint of an Aboriginal organization they would consider that human health, safety and well-being, and environmental integrity should be the most important questions addressed in the process since the other questions focus more on the procedural steps and considerations to be reviewed, whereas these questions focus more on the *raison d'être* of the entire process.

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Board members reviewed the Assessment framework set out in *Understanding the Options*. The Citizen values and Ethical Principles as stated therein were acceptable to those in attendance, without additions or alterations. The 8 specific objectives were likewise agreed as pertinent and inclusive.

PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS OF A PREFERRED MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The Board members in attendance agreed with the four outlined steps of a preferred management approach. In the discussion that ensued regarding this section there appeared to be a complete lack of trust in the nuclear industry, and in particular New Brunswick Power, to act properly, ethically and with full citizen

engagement. Those attending believe that a lot of work will have to be accomplished by this agency to establish trust with the citizenry.

ABORIGINAL PARTICIPATION

A considerable portion of the workshop focused on the issue of Aboriginal participation. We reviewed the findings from the Aboriginal traditional knowledge workshop in Saskatoon. This was backed up with a review of the Seaborn Panel's observations on the necessity of Aboriginal involvement in the process. It is clear that Aboriginals are involved, or should be, in the resolution of this problem because of the following reasons:

- Lands primarily occupied or utilized by Aboriginals are being considered as locations for disposal,
- Aboriginals have occupied this continent for over 10,000 years, whereas the non-Aboriginal peoples are recent occupants, but during their short tenure they have visited a host of problems upon the environment and eco-systems that tax the ability of Mother Earth to survive,
- Non-aboriginals have failed to grasp the concept of providing for future generations and that they should be stewards of the land,
- Most of the proposals for resolution of the problem fail to include traditional ecological knowledge into the equation,
- Key aspects of Bill C-27 have not been adhered to as they pertain to Aboriginals,

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The workshop reviewed the traditional knowledge conclusions from the workshop conducted in Saskatoon in 2003. The position paper prepared by the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association was one of the discussion documents examined and the group assembled concurs in the observations contained in that paper on the use of Traditional Knowledge and Aboriginal Participation in the process.

They concur that Aboriginals followed certain principles in all processes that included;

- Honor,
- Respect,
- Conservation,
- Transparency, and
- Accountability.

We echo OMAA's position that each of these principles should be guiding parameters of this process. To this end we see these being applied in the following manner;

- Honor the wisdom that can be garnered from speaking to the elders in both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community,
- Respect the opinions and suggestions of all who take the time to provide insight into this process,
- Conservation, particularly as it applies to the consumption of electricity, must be a major part of the solution, not just a footnote in the NWMO process,
- Transparency in the process is required when the NWMO (the producer of the problem) is required to suggest the solution, and
- Accountability must be inbred into any solution so as those responsible for a solution (whether it be concept or delivery) are held to high account by the public for their actions, given the nature of the problem.

TRADITIONAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

Perhaps the greatest contribution Aboriginals can make to this process involves our traditional decision making processes. Firstly this would involve allowing those who are the wisest speak first (or be given some precedence in the process).

Secondly when the problem impacts the whole community, the whole community must be involved in the process. This issue affects all Canadians, whether the nuclear waste is produced in their area, disposed of in their area, or not, since a failure to adequately store or dispose of the material safely could affect the health of those exposed to the hazard, not to mention the economic ramifications. Aboriginals have always maintained that there must be participation of all, not just the few and that during those deliberations the collective benefits during the short and long term be examined, when the issue affects the entire community. Accordingly this is not an issue that should be examined from the viewpoint of the benefits to the few (the affected storage community, the nuclear industry) but rather the whole of the Canadian population, if not the planet.

Thirdly all matters must be considered. Certainly the NWMO's analytical framework discussion and the key questions posed is an admirable effort to address all aspects of the problem. These discussions could benefit from the Aboriginal use of a holistic approach to difficulties. This involves a consideration of the impact of the proposed solution on all life, not just humans, and examining the issue in light of the seven generation teachings. This is most appropriate for the ' Nuclear Waste management ' debate since the impact of our decisions can and will have effect on future generations. All aspects of this process should involve a long-term view of the consequences on the upcoming generations.

Next, Aboriginal communities adhered to the concept that the authority of the people must be enforced, despite the wishes of the few. Inherent in this approach is a recognition that what the people, collectively, wish to occur, must not only be seen to occur but actually does occur in. This may mean difficult choices for those in authority but no "deals" or "economic considerations" must be allowed to thwart the will of the people.

Also Aboriginals have always understood the consequences of breaking traditional laws or practices. Unfortunately many in Western society do not adhere to this practice, either attempting to shift blame or escape the consequences of their improper behaviour. Whatever solution is ultimately adopted there must be strong accountability built into the solution. We must all understand that there will be consequences if those implementing solutions fail to exercise due diligence. The group was pleased to see that in the Preferred management Approach the concept of a 'robust system of governance' and 'opportunities for citizen engagement' have been included as preliminary requirements.

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Aboriginal communities have always possessed a considerable volume of traditional ecological knowledge, built up through centuries of observation, wisdom and experience. This knowledge is constantly growing and changes as new information is added. As stated in Saskatoon this knowledge accepts that people are an inherent component of the land and in fact are primarily guardians of that trust. Our traditional ecological knowledge encompasses the biophysical, economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects of the environment, and the emphasis is on the complete inter-relationships between all these components of the environment.

Again the NWMO process can learn from these experiences by examining all potential solutions to the nuclear waste management within the context of these various parameters.

ABORIGINAL INVOLVEMENT

We repeat OMAA's observations on this point. Bill C-27 dealing with long-term management of nuclear fuel waste makes several mention 's of Aboriginal involvement.

1. In establishing an Advisory Council aboriginal organizations are to be involved and specifically 'expertise in traditional aboriginal knowledge' should be a criteria for appointing board members. While it is apparent that there may be Aboriginal members of the Board it is not readily apparent, at least yet, that these members have such expertise and if not this should be remedied forthwith.

2. Clauses 12 to 15 of the Bill dealing with the study specifically mention the requirement for the general public, and in particular Aboriginal Peoples, must be consulted and a summary of the comments provided.

It is obvious from the comments made at the Saskatoon and North Bay regional dialogues that the process to date, is not to be considered as consultations. The Board of Directors concurs with this position and repeats the assertion that the two-day workshop, while well appreciated by the members, is likewise not to be construed as consultations. More will be stated about this in our recommendations section.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the involvement of the E.C.F.P.A. in the process to date has not been extensive we believe that our recommendations and advice, created from an Aboriginal perspective, are nevertheless valid and worth comment. The following thoughts constitute opinions expressed by the participants with regard to the issue of nuclear waste management. These opinions reflect the points of concern that we as an Aboriginal organization are putting forward to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Most are the same recommendations made by the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association since we feel they mirror our concerns on a number of key points.

1. While we appreciate that the mandate of the NWMO is specifically spelled out in the legislation and some of what we say here is not included in that mandate nevertheless we feel these points should be addressed.
 - (a) The mandate for the NWMO should have included all nuclear waste, not just spent fuel. More correctly the whole nuclear power process should have been addressed. While some of these issues may be within exclusive or shared provincial jurisdiction, they must still be addressed. These include the mines, the tailings, reactors, the buildings, the piping, and the radioactive material other than spent fuel, all of which present similar danger to the environment through radioactivity or toxicity. The potential decommissioning of reactor sites may be within Provincial mandates, but Aboriginal peoples have had little success in their dealings with Provincial bodies. While this is improving incrementally we only have the past to guide us and accordingly we have substantial concern that the same care and the same process that the NWMO is taking, will not be echoed by their provincial counterparts. Accordingly we ask that the NWMO in its report to the Federal Government clearly recommend the continued participation

of Aboriginal peoples when future plans for commissioning or decommissioning Nuclear Generating Sites are undertaken by any level of government.

2. We are not naïve enough to believe that nuclear waste will no longer be produced when the useful projected life span of the current reactors has been met. We subscribe to the belief that until there is a change in the lifestyle of Canadians when it comes to the consumption of power (unlimited consumption versus conservation) Canadians will demand power at the flick of a switch and this will lead to creation of more nuclear plants and production of additional used fuel bundles. All of the proposed solutions examine the issue from the standpoint of current project waste bundles. If this number will increase then projections will vary, and not just in costs. What may have been an acceptable solution involving 3 million bundles may present different outcomes when involving 5 million bundles.

We concur with other spokespeople who have called for a national dialogue on the issue of power generation that will examine the issue from all aspects, not just a waste management perspective. If the NWMO and the Canadian consumer are not part of the formation of Provincial policy regarding power generation, then they cannot be fully capable of providing an adequate solution that addresses not just current waste production, but also nuclear waste that may be generated in the future. We urge the NWMO to point out this glaring oversight in its final report. We believe that if an organization has an overall task to develop and/or provide a solution to a problem, then logically that organization must have a say in how that problem is being created, may be mitigated or may be controlled.

3. We must state categorically that although Aboriginal people were not the primary engineers nor beneficiaries of the technology that provides us with nuclear generated power, we as an integral part of this planet recognize a responsibility to our future generations to attempt to find a solution that is realistic, pragmatic as well as practical. We must retain the thought that we do not know all of the long-term effects of spent nuclear fuel on ecosystems and the environment, but nevertheless it is our responsibility today to attempt to control, mitigate and minimize the long-term effects that we are cognizant of. Bearing this in mind, E.C.F.P.A. advocates that the safe and effective storage of the dangerous products of nuclear generated power be consistent with the principles of traditional knowledge including the Seven Generations principle. We repeat our concern as a Board and an Aboriginal organization that a disposal approach focusing on out of sight out of mind concept is fraught with potential danger when being applied to this problem.

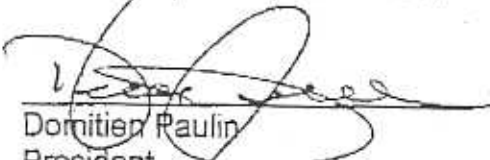
4. Whatever decision that is made on this problem as it currently exists, should not and must not bind the hands of future generations, because their technology may equip them to deal in a safer, more appropriate manner with this issue than we can presently envisage. We should be mindful that we are merely borrowing this Earth from our children and as careful stewards of the Earth we must exercise due caution when making such monumental decisions.
5. While we appreciate the effort by the NWMO in making information on this complex issue available to all, we repeat the concern of many that the issue must be explained in terms comprehensible to the average citizen. There is a fine line between talking to people and talking down to people but we are satisfied that the NWMO is up to the challenge of the former without risk of the latter. When it comes to Aboriginal people the information should be presented in a culturally appropriate manner.
6. This process could benefit from some of the lessons taught by the Aboriginal community. These include:
 - a. Consult with the whole community, not just the leaders,
 - b. Ensure that rights are not being breached in the process,
 - c. Empower communities through the process,
 - d. Consult with elders and the wisest,
 - e. Make the information understandable to all, and
 - f. Respect existing management structures.
7. Similarly the NWMO in assessing the progress it has made towards its mandate to date and determining what tenets it will apply to the balance of the process should keep in mind the following:
 - a. Traditional knowledge provides information on the physical, biological and social components of a particular landscape,
 - b. Then assists to establish rules for using them without damaging them irreparably,
 - c. Clarifies and enhances the relationships amongst the users,
 - d. Assists in the development of technologies for using them to meet the subsistence, health, trade, and ritual needs of the local people, and
 - e. Helps to create a view of the world that incorporates and makes sense of all of the above in the context of a long-term and holistic perspective in decision-making.
8. Bearing in mind the Seaborn recommendations, the legislative requirements in Bill C-27, the likelihood of disposal options being within the vicinity of Aboriginal communities, and NWMO's position on 2004 engagement (Aboriginal engagement and consultations), the East Coast First People Alliance repeats its call for complete consultations. While


we appreciate the effort that the NWMO has taken to engage E.C.F.P.A. in this dialogue we maintain that discussions with a few does not equal consultations. There should be greater funding to allow these consultations to proceed as has been outlined in other submissions by Aboriginal organizations.


9. The East Coast First People Alliance will be conducting surveys in communities across New Brunswick in the coming months and will provide a final report and position paper based upon the results of the workshop and surveys.
10. We believe that there should be some examination into the possibility, perhaps through research, of using less nuclear fuel rods and thereby the production of less waste in the process.
11. Finally we have major concerns about the transportation of the waste out of our Province thereby exposing other parts of the Province and Canada to potential risk factors. One of the major surprises of the workshop was the belief on the part of one of our elected representatives that he had been told the waste had already been transported out of the Province to Ontario, which of course is contrary to the material provided to our group. Again this speaks to the need for trust to be established first for this process to work properly.

The East Coast First People Alliance thanks the Nuclear Waste Management organization for this opportunity to participate in this process to date and looks forward to future participation in consultations.

All of which is respectfully submitted;


Domitien Paulin
President
East Coast First People Alliance


Alfred Chiasson
Secretary-Treasurer
East Coast First People Alliance


Roland Chiasson
Vice President
East Coast First People Alliance



Appendix A

EAST COAST FIRST PEOPLE ALLIANCE

ALLIANCE PREMIER PEUPLE DE LA CÔTE-EST

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NWMO-SAT-SUN., NOV. 6-7, 2004

Bathurst, New-Brunswick

AGENDA

SATURDAY 6, 2004

- 11:30-12:30 *Lunch.*
- 12:30-12:45 Introduction of participants.
- 12:45-13:15 Showing of DVD movie on Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel (in English & French)
about 30 minutes total.
- 13:15-14:30 Asking the Right Question Powerpoint presentation.
- 14:30-14:45 *Break.*
- 14:45-16:00 Continue Powerpoint.
- 16:00-17:00 Review of National Stakeholders and Regional Dialogue Sessions.
- 17:00-17:30 Distribution of Position Paper from OMAA for consideration.
- 17:30 *Adjournment.*

SUNDAY 7, 2004

- 07:30-08:45 *Breakfast.*
- 09:00-10:30 Session Commences Understanding the Choices.
- 10:30-10:45 *Morning Break.*
- 10:45-12:00 Assessing the Options.
- 12:00-13:00 *Lunch.*
- 13:00-14:30 Review and Completion of Position Paper.
- 14:30-15:30 Discussion on Future activities and distribution of survey.
- 15:30 *Adjournment.*

ALLIANCE PREMIER PEUPLE CÔTE-EST EAST COAST FIRST PEOPLE ALLIANCE

Novembre / November 04

Site internet : www.appce.ca • Website : www.ecfpa.ca

4 DIRECTIONS DU LOGO:

Nord > Ours polaire et plante champignon
Est > l'Aigle et herbes douces
Sud > Oiseau tonnerre et épice « sage »
Ouest > Ours noir et cèdre

LOGO DEFINITION:

North > Polar Bear & Fungus
East > Eagle & Sweet Grass
South > Thunder Bird & Sage
West > Black Bear & Cedar



Historique ~ Alliance du premier peuple de la côte est

Notre organisme est une entité incorporée sous les lois de l'acte de Corporation Canadienne numéro 359 502-1, mars 1999 à Ottawa.

Un nombre de personnes autochtones hors-réserves et qui étaient insatisfaites de leur sort ont créé l'Alliance du Premier Peuple de la Côte Est. Celles-ci se trouvaient en mandat de représentation pour les personnes autochtones hors réserves et sans point de référence. Depuis ses débuts l'alliance a eu sa part de difficultés à négocier les programmes de support du gouvernement provincial ou fédéral. Le nombre de membres déjà enregistrés approche le 5900.

Afin de rehausser un peu la vie de nos membres l'Alliance s'est donné comme responsabilité la création de programmes qui touchent à la culture.

Les lois canadiennes des affaires autochtones nous empêchent accès au titre d'indien statué. Nous avons des membres parmi nous que leurs grand-mères étaient des indiennes statuéées sous ces lois indiennes, mais elles ont connu la discrimination lors des rappels de lois qui ont institué les droits seulement au parent mâle de ravoir son identité statuéée.

L'Alliance du Premier Peuple de la Côte Est, comme représentant de ce peuple autochtone marginalisé souhaite pouvoir se fier à notre gouvernement pour rectifier les erreurs portées à travers des temps à notre égard!

History ~ East Coast First People Alliance

Our organization has been chartered under the Canada Corporation Act, corporation number 359 502-1, March 1999 in Ottawa.

The East Coast First Peoples Alliance was started as a direct result of unsatisfied off-reserve Aboriginal People of this province. We, as the majority of off-reserve in this province, needed someone to represent those individuals. This is why we started. However, since our beginning we have met with a lot of problems when it comes to accessing programs and services from the provincial and federal governments.

Our membership is fast approaching 5900 members and it is such a large number of people to represent, we need certain programs and services to enhance our members' culture.

We have members whose Grandmother was a registered status Indian under that act when the discriminatory clause was repealed, however only their fathers could become members of that band.

Now on the issue of Métis, which is who we are identifying ourselves as, I can assure you that this term is used in the province and federal governments, however they seem to think that the Métis People are only in the language of the Treaty. This is not so. We are all over Canada and especially along the eastern Seaboard.

It is certainly our hope that we have clarified who we are and who we represent. It is also our hope that we will hear from you on these matters in the very near future. The people are depending on us as their legal representatives as we depend for now on our government to rectify some of the grave mistakes that Aboriginal People have had to face and in many ways still do in this country.

Chers membres et familles de l'Alliance du Premier Peuple de la Côte Est Bonjour à la population en générale

Il me fait plaisir de vous introduire le premier volet de notre bulletin d'information. Notre organisme existe depuis 6 ans. Un lobbyiste travaille au nom de l'Alliance, auprès des paliers politiques à Ottawa. Nous avons appliqué pour des projets fédéraux pour nous donner visibilité et se faire voir et entendre. Finalement, j'ai le plaisir de vous dire que le vice président va vous faire part d'un projet parvenant des fonds ciblés pour l'aménagement des déchets nucléaires, ce qui touche de près le Nouveau Brunswick. Certains membres de l'alliance travaillent très fort pour recueillir des documents historiques aptes à démontrer au gouvernement l'existence historique d'une communauté métisse au Nouveau Brunswick. Suite à notre rencontre et peut-être coïncidence, le Département de Justice du Canada a commissionné une étude de recherche au Nouveau Brunswick pour trouver des preuves possible de communautés historiques métisses. Nous faisons partis de cette étude. Au nom de l'Alliance, je tiens toujours à remercier sincèrement les bénévoles qui dévouent des heures inépuisables pour la continuation de l'alliance, ses projets et ses aspirations. Je vous remercie de votre patience et de votre courage. Soyez fiers de vos origines.

Domitien Paulin, Président

Du vice président

En tant que votre vice président je vous donne un compte rendu des activités de la dernière année. Je veux aussi signaler que des fonds à partir de la Société de Gestion des Déchets Nucléaires rend possible la publication de ce bulletin d'information. Une rencontre organisée à Moncton pour les membres de l'exécutif et les membres fondateurs de l'Alliance avec M. Jack Falkin, avocat de Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association a été très profitable et intéressante. La discussion principale était au sujet de la décision « Powley » de la Cour suprême du Canada. Au niveau du gouvernement provincial M. Falkin nous a accompagné pour rencontrer Peter Francis, sous ministre. À cette rencontre nous leur avons montré des documents historiques qui reflètent une interprétation de l'existence de communauté métisse au Nouveau Brunswick. Suite à une demande de projet pour fonds à promouvoir et sensibiliser la population devant la question aigue du « débarrasage des déchets nucléaire », j'ai le plaisir de vous aviser que la Société de Gestion des Déchets Nucléaires nous a accordé le projet en valeur de \$25,000. En outre, ce projet nous donne un début d'identité dans les paliers reliés au gouvernement ce qui augmente notre visibilité devant la population. Des rencontres ont été organisées dans toutes les zones de la province.

Roland Chasson

Greetings to members of the East Coast First People's Alliance, their families and the general population

It is a great pleasure to introduce our first ever, newsletter. A lobbyist is hired and lobbies on our behalf with officials in Ottawa at all relevant levels of contacts that may benefit our cause. Applications have been submitted for funding of projects of public and political interests. In due time, it is my pleasure to inform you that in his report, our vice president will speak on a recent project award addressing the issue of Nuclear Waste disposal, a definite concern for the general population of New Brunswick. The Federal Department of Justice has commissioned a research group to look into supporting documents for the historical existence of Métis in New Brunswick. Members of the Alliance have an opportunity to share research with the assigned group. On behalf of the Alliance it is forever my greatest pleasure to thank all the volunteers who devote time for the continuation of the Alliance mission, its projects and its hopes for recognition in the future. I thank you all for your patience and your courage. Be proud of your origins.

Domitien Paulin, Président

From the vice president

As your vice president I am pleased to indicate that this newsletter is possible as a result of funds sponsored by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Late last Fall a meeting was held in Moncton with Mr. Jack Falkin, lawyer from OMAA. The main points of discussion focused on meaning of the "Powley" decision by the Supreme Court of Canada and the ramifications of this decision for Métis across Canada. In the spring of 2004 Mr. Falkin also joined the Alliance Executive to meet Peter Francis and other officials of the NB provincial government. On this occasion, a document reflective of interpretation of the historical existence of Métis in New Brunswick was shown to the authorities. A project was applied for and was granted to the Alliance from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. This is our first opportunity to have our Organization identified among inter government agencies or affiliates. We are in the process of carrying out the mission and mandate of the project aimed at enhancing awareness of the potential processes of Nuclear Fuel disposal. Meetings were organized in every provincial zone throughout the year.

Roland Chasson

Message de votre exécutif

tous les membres qui se sont déjà inscrits - au nom de nous tous, vous les membres et nous-mêmes, en lien avec une équipe de bénévoles nous sommes à la fin de notre sixième année dans un travail assidu pour avancer notre mandat et trouver les moyens de se faire reconnaître au niveau politique et gouvernemental. Nous invitons nos membres à être actifs. Nous avons besoin de votre support.

Message from your executive

To all members who have ever registered, on your behalf, the executive and its group of volunteers have worked many thousands of hours over the past 6 years to seek our rights and recognition.

We invite our members to be active. We need your financial support.

Conseil d'administration / Administrative Council

| | |
|---|----------|
| Domitien Paulin, President | 344-5241 |
| Roland Chiasson, Vice-President | 548-3293 |
| Alfred Chiasson, Secrétaire-trésorier / Secretary-Treasurer | 344-8985 |

Directeurs / Directors:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Guillemot Turgeon | 735-3102 |
| Jamie Hachey | 647-3825 |
| Gordon Hachey | 696-2777 |
| Denise O. Chiasson | 759-9110 |
| Roger Dairon | 367-1108 |
| Bernard Pallot | 764-5221 |
| Germaine Daigle | 876-2772 |
| Christine Pelletier | 473-4746 |
| Jason Foote | 533-9151 |

A.P.P.C.E./E.C.F.P.A.

C.P. 2143,

Lamèque, N.-B. EST 3N7

Mappe des zones (APPCE) 2000 Zone Map (ACFPA) 2000



Programmes de l'Alliance offerts à ses membres actifs:

1. Bourse d'étude
2. Programme de support pour les armes à feu
3. Programme d'aide en garderie d'enfants
- Programme d'aide aux enfants défavorisés

Alliance programs offered to active members:

- 1) Student Bursaries
- 2) Firearms support program
- 3) Day Care Program and Guardian Assistance Program
- 4) School Lunch programs for students in need

Danger associé à la toxicité

Bien que ce soit la radioactivité qui suscite de loin le plus d'inquiétude au sein de la population parmi les dangers que présente le combustible nucléaire irradié, ce dernier peut aussi libérer des éléments chimiquement toxiques, et notamment des métaux lourds.

Lorsque leur désintégration cesse, les radionucléides deviennent des éléments stables dont certains sont toxiques. L'uranium, par exemple, radio-isotope le plus abondant (en masse) dans le combustible irradié, présente une toxicité chimique qui l'emporte sur sa toxicité radiologique. De plus, l'uranium se désintègre en plomb, qui lui aussi est toxique.

Il existe aussi d'autres produits élémentaires de la décroissance radioactive qui sont rares et dont on sait peu de choses sur le comportement dans l'environnement. Outre les éléments traces issus de la désintégration des radionucléides, un certain nombre d'éléments traces (tels que le niobium) sont aussi présents dans la graine des grappes de combustible irradié ou dans les enveloppes de confinement. Un jour, ces produits de la décroissance radioactive seront introduits dans le cycle géochimique. Si ces contaminants migrent dans l'eau souterraine, l'eau de surface ou l'air et sont absorbés par des organismes, ils peuvent provoquer des lésions.

Potential Harm from Toxicity

Radioactivity is, by far, the public's greatest concern related to potential harmful effects of used nuclear fuel. However, in addition to radioactivity, used nuclear fuel has the potential to release chemically toxic elements, including heavy metals.

As the radionuclides end their decay they become stable elements, some of which are toxic. Uranium, for example (the most abundant radioisotope, on a mass basis, in used fuel), has greater chemical toxicity than radiotoxicity. Furthermore, once uranium decays, it becomes lead, which is also toxic.

Other elemental products of radioactive decay are rare, but do exist, and little is known about their environmental behaviour. In addition to the trace elements that appear from the decay of radionuclides, there are a number of trace elements (such as niobium) that are present in used fuel cladding or containment vessels. Eventually, these products of radioactive decay are released into natural geochemical cycles. If these contaminants move into ground-water, surface water, and/or air, and are then taken up by organisms, they can cause harm.

Si vous avez des commentaires
ou suggestions, contactez :
A.F.P.C.E.

Cotisation annuelle payable à :

Alliance Premier Peuple
de la côte-est
C.P. 2143,
Lamèque, N.-B. EST 3N7

Merci!

If you wish to communicate
or have suggestions, contact:
E.C.E.P.A.

Annual membership fees payable to :

East Coast First People Alliance
C.P. 2143,
Lamèque, N.-B. EST 3N7

Thank you!

