

MEDIA RELEASE

Saskatoon
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Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan

Citizens groups question legitimacy of uranium panel report.

The Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan (CCGS), made up of citizens in rural and urban Saskatchewan who promote a non nuclear future for our province, is critical of the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) report released today.

The UDP is not neutral: it is a nuclear industry panel appointed by a pro-nuclear government. Several members have been employed by the nuclear industry, three are CEOs of nuclear companies. Their recommendations are driven by their agenda to manufacture consent. We need to restore public trust before going any further. According to Bruce Power's own survey there is near unanimous (95%) support for renewable energy in Saskatchewan. Why then was \$2.5 million spent to study nuclear options, and no money allocated to study and plan a clean energy future based on conservation, efficiency, cogeneration, solar, wind, small-scale hydro, biomass and geothermal?

The Coalition believes nuclear waste storage is at the core of the industry's intentions for Saskatchewan. Uranium development is simply the "Trojan Horse" being used to bring it to our doorstep. The federal agency responsible for nuclear waste storage in Canada has been looking at Saskatchewan as a potential site for nuclear waste dumping. Nuclear waste is piling up all around the world, but long-term storage has no willing takers. If we end up with radioactive wastes generated by unnecessary atomic reactors or uranium refineries, there will be great pressure put upon us to also store hundreds of thousands of tonnes of highly dangerous substances from elsewhere – waste that will be radioactive for thousands of years. What kind of legacy is that to leave to our grandchildren and their grandchildren?

The Coalition urges the provincial government to engage with citizens in an open, honest and transparent process to examine Saskatchewan's energy future rather than to impose a rushed public consultation process designed by, and for, the nuclear industry. In the meantime we urge communities threatened with the spectre of a nuclear reactor or uranium refinery near their homes to organize, seek legal advice, and legally petition their municipal councils to avoid or prevent hasty compliance with the agendas of corporate interests.

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