

August 30, 2023

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister for Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room:C7-1
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4
Canada

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

Re: Support for the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste and Recommendations

Canada can take a lot of pride in its position as a world leader in the development and deployment of nuclear technologies, a position established over decades and a strong foundation of technical excellence and operational know-how upon which we can build. Now more than ever, nuclear energy is recognized as a vital tool in meeting climate targets, achieving a net-zero emissions economy by 2050 and ensuring a continued safe and secure energy system in the face of global challenges.

Achieving these goals successfully depends not just on having the right technology and resources in place but also assurance to Canadians and Indigenous peoples that there is a long-term waste management solution for the radioactive waste that results.

All radioactive by-products and waste in Canada are currently safely managed in compliance with Canadian legislation and in accordance with international standards at facilities licensed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). However, not all the materials determined to be waste have long-term disposal plans.

Visible government leadership on this matter is essential. Indeed, your government has already taken the important step of modernizing our country's radioactive waste management framework and tasking the Nuclear Waste Management organization (NWMO) with developing an Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management designed to address the remaining gaps.

The NWMO rose to this challenge and developed a strategy following two years of engagement with Canadians, Indigenous peoples and the industry. The strategy is based on international best practices and direction from Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning.

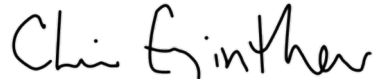
The strategy specifically addresses gaps in long term waste management and disposal of some low-level, intermediate-level, and non-fuel high-level radioactive wastes. The recommendations along with your government's support, would achieve the goal of providing long-term solutions for all radioactive waste in Canada.

At Ontario Power Generation, we take our role as a steward of nuclear by-products and waste seriously. This is evidenced by our intention to commence an open, consultative, and consent-based process to identify potential technologies and willing host communities for disposal of our low-level waste and by-products in 2024.

We look forward to doing our part and implementing this Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste in the coming months and years, including building low level near surface waste disposal facilities.

Consistent with your government's support for deploying new nuclear in Canada, we request that the government publicly recognize the work that has been done to develop this integrated strategy and endorse the recommendations as an effective next step towards the implementation of disposal of all of Canada's radioactive waste, including endorsing NWMO's role as noted in the strategy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ginther". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Ginther

Ontario Power Generation