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August 21, 2024

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Concerns with the Transport and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA)**

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Township of Baldwin to formally submit the attached resolution passed jointly by the two Councils at a Joint Emergency Council Meeting on August 19, 2024.

Our two Townships very recently learned of the decision to transport naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) from the former Beaucage Mine Site and Nipissing First Nation reserve lands and deposit it at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area in the Township of Nairn and Hyman. The decision to transport and deposit NORM has far-reaching implications for the environment, public health, and safety of our communities, and this significant decision was made without any consultation with our municipalities and the other municipalities located near Agnew Lake or along the Highway 17 corridor.

In addition to the participation of our municipalities in this Emergency Council Meeting, many representatives from surrounding First Nations attended the meeting, underscoring the widespread concern across our region about this impending project. The planned transportation of NORM is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks, therefore we respectfully request your attention to this urgent matter.

The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION:** 2024-EM1-2

**DATE:** August 19, 2024

**MOVED BY:** Councillor McVey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Cote

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin have been informed of the decision to transport naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) from the former Beaucage Mine and Nipissing First Nation reserve land, and deposit it at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA) in the Township of Nairn and Hyman; and

**WHEREAS** this decision has significant implications for the environment, public health, and safety of the surrounding communities, including those within the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Township of Baldwin; and

**WHEREAS** the decision to transport and deposit NORM to the ALTMA site was made without any consultation with the Township of Nairn and Hyman or the other municipalities bordering Agnew Lake, resulting in the exclusion of local municipalities from the decision-making process; and

**WHEREAS** the exclusion of local municipalities from this process represents a serious breach of trust and a disregard for the well-being of the residents of these communities; and

**WHEREAS** there are significant concerns among residents regarding the potential contamination of drinking water sources, particularly Agnew Lake, which many residents rely on for safe drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** the risks associated with NORM are well-documented, and the proximity of the ALTMA to Agnew Lake heightens the concerns regarding the potential contamination of this vital water source; and

**WHEREAS** according to information received from the Ministry of Mines, there are already some areas of the ALTMA site where dose estimates exceed the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's regulatory limit for casual site users; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin held a joint Emergency Council Meeting on August 19, 2024;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demands that the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Transportation immediately halt the project involving the transportation and deposition of NORM at the ALTMA site until a clear line of communication is established with local municipalities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demands full disclosure of all pertinent details regarding the proposed future NORM transportation and deposition plan, including specific transportation routes, emergency response plans, safety protocols, and the future management plan for the ALTMA site; and

**THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin insists that environmental and health impact assessments be conducted with input from independent experts, and that these assessments include opportunities for public hearings to ensure transparency and community involvement; and

**THAT** the Province of Ontario enact legislation that consultation with municipalities is a requirement of any projects that include the transportation or deposition of NORM; and

**THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members; the Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; the Canadian Environmental Law Association; MP Carol Hughes; MPP Michael Mantha; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at [belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca](mailto:belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca) or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Yours truly,



Belinda Ketchabaw  
CAO Clerk Treasurer  
Township of Nairn and Hyman

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Cc:

Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines  
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation  
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members  
Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members  
Ontario Ombudsman  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Canadian Environmental Law Association  
MP Carol Hughes  
MPP Michael Mantha  
Association of Ontario Municipalities  
All Ontario Municipalities