

Nuclear energy is clean and safe.

According to the Ontario Workplace Safety & Insurance Board “primary cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung among workers previously exposed in uranium mining in Ontario are recognized as occupational diseases under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. They are characteristic of uranium mining.”

Uranium waste rock and tailings storage sites have been identified as significant sources of radon gas released into the environment. The United States Surgeon General has determined that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

The inhalation of uranium dust causes lung and bone cancer due to its radioactivity. But low level uranium is also chemically toxic and can cause damage to organs, especially kidneys. It is also mutagenic and can change our DNA and damage our chromosomes.

The tailings left over from mining are as radioactive as the uranium itself. They are thousands of times more toxic than cyanide.

The concentration of uranium in the rock in Ontario is relatively low. It is estimated that for 1 kilogram of uranium there will be 1,000,000 kilograms of mined ground rock. Open pit mines, mill waste rock and tailings take up huge space, creating a veritable wasteland. This is especially true in areas such as ours where the deposits are of a lower grade.

Nuclear energy is cost efficient.

Tailings have to be contained for thousands of years, long after the company has left the site and made their money

Several experts' estimates calculate the Canadian Government subsidies to the nuclear industry to be in the area of 17.5 billion dollars. These costs do not include future decommissioning costs. Apparently no one even talks about this nor has there been any estimate as to how they will be paid.

I wonder what the future "debt retirement charge" will be, if the Ontario Government proceeds with their nuclear plans.

There is so much more to say, in particular Canada's complicity in nuclear weapons proliferation, but its all there in submissions already made to the Citizens' Inquiry.

The alternatives of wind and solar power have been staring us in the face forever, and now that the technology is there to develop these on a large scale basis, there is no excuse. If even a fraction of what the government will be investing into nuclear were diverted to individuals to make it more economical for them to go greener, many people would do so. Individuals want to do the right thing.

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