

Commissioner Lana Pollack,
United States Co-Chair
The International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality
2000 L Street NW Ste #615
Washington, D.C. 20440

(Fax 202 632 2007)

October 25, 2011

Dear Commissioner Lana Pollack:

Thank you for a most useful and interesting IJC Biennial Meeting.

As we discussed briefly at the meetings, those of us who have been working on nuclear issues feel strongly that a Special Report on Nuclear Issues is needed as part of the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

In the attached letter we request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss the specific content of a Special Report on Nuclear Issues and the mandate of a new IJC Nuclear Task Force.

We hope we can arrange such a meeting through Dave Dempsey, Cindy Warwick, Susan Hedman, and Michael Goffin to whom we have copied this note and the following letter by e-mail.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Anabel Dwyer
231 436 5654 (home)
231 436 1107 (cell)

Commissioner Joseph Comuzzi,
Canadian Co-Chair
The International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality
234 Laurier Ave. West, 22th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

(Fax 613 993 5583)

October 25, 2011

Dear Commissioner Joseph Comuzzi:

Thank you for a most useful and interesting IJC Biennial Meeting.

As we stated briefly at the Town Hall, those of us who have been working on nuclear issues feel strongly that a Special Report on Nuclear Issues is needed as part of the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

In the attached letter we request a meeting with you and appropriate staff members to discuss the specific content of a Special Report on Nuclear Issues and the mandate of a new IJC Nuclear Task Force.

We hope we can arrange such a meeting through Dave Dempsey, Cindy Warwick, Susan Hedman, and Michael Goffin to whom we have copied this note and the following letter by e-mail.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Anabel Dwyer
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To: Commissioner Lana Pollack, United States Co-Chair
2000 L Street NW Ste #615, Washington, D.C. 20440

Commissioner Joseph Comuzzi, Canadian Co-Chair
234 Laurier Ave. West, 22th Floor, Ottawa, ON K1P 6K6

The International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality

Date: October 25, 2011

Re: Special Report on Nuclear Issues needed as part of the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), and a new IJC Nuclear Task Force to produce such a report.

We request a meeting to discuss the content of a Special Report on Nuclear Issues and the mandate of a new IJC Nuclear Task Force.

The IJC understands from its earlier Nuclear Task Force reports and numerous studies that radioactive forms of toxic chemicals, from reactors, uranium mines, mills and reprocessing facilities and accumulated waste, harm and endanger the Great Lakes ecosystem and human health.

In order to restore and maintain the Great Lakes water quality and because of the very high impact of accidental or intentional releases, a Nuclear Issues Special Report is needed in the context of the new GLWQA. We request that the International Joint Commission (IJC) form a new Nuclear Task Force to write a Nuclear Issues Special Report.

The Nuclear Issues Special Report as part of the new GLWQA would:

1. Summarize existing documentation of presence and sources in the Great Lakes watershed of at least the radioactive forms of toxic chemicals identified in the IJC's 1998 Ninth Biennial Report section on radioactivity: tritium, carbon-14, iodine- 129, isotopes of plutonium and radium 226.
2. Define toxic chemicals for virtual elimination to include specifically but not exclusively highly dangerous and long-lived radioactive forms.
3. Update exposure standards and assure consistency of monitoring for known bio-hazardous radionuclides.
4. Integrate the Special Report written by the new Nuclear Task Force directly into the proposed Science Annex and Annex on Climate Change.
5. Look at existing subsidies and liability related to nuclear industries or corporations in order to properly assign accountability for known harms and dangers.

We would like to request an appropriate meeting with Commissioners and staff to discuss implementation of our suggestions. We urge you to include in the new Nuclear Task Force qualified members independent of nuclear industries and regulatory agencies so that this work could be accomplished rapidly and effectively.

We are among many groups and individuals that have asked the IJC to recommend to and inform the governments of the US and Canada that it is inappropriate to transport radioactive waste from decommissioned or operating reactors or highly radioactive nuclear fuel on the Great Lakes or through the St. Lawrence River or along the shores of these bodies of water.

As a result of long-standing concerns, many of us are involved in efforts to end any further licenses, permits or subsidies for or from known sources of contamination until decommissioning, dismantlement, waste and proliferation problems including radiological and toxicological human and ecological effects are properly addressed and remediated. We have submitted or will submit written comments for your 2012 Biennial Report but because of the extreme harms and dangers involved we urge you to take these recommended steps.

Thank you,

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