

Re: Concerns regarding the Wesleyville New Nuclear Project

Dear Premier and Ministers,

I am writing to share concerns regarding the proposed **Wesleyville New Nuclear Project**. Ontario is already seeking electricity price increases of up to **70%** to cover existing energy projects. Adding another large nuclear facility risks further significant financial strain on ratepayers and households, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities.

Large-scale nuclear facilities carry serious energy security risks. Concentrating electricity generation in a few high-capacity reactors increases vulnerability to outages or accidents, which could disrupt power across the province. The proposed Darlington small modular reactors (SMRs) are among the first grid-scale SMRs licensed and under construction in a G7 nation, so it remains uncertain how reliably they will deploy. They also rely on imported nuclear fuel or hybrid fuels from other countries, which could be restricted or withheld during international conflicts or supply chain disruptions, further jeopardizing Ontario's energy reliability.

From an environmental perspective, nuclear energy has a large carbon footprint across its lifecycle, including mining, fuel processing, construction, and decommissioning. Most importantly, it produces long-lived radioactive waste, which requires secure, enforceable management for tens of thousands of years. Any facility must ensure credible long-term stewardship, with meaningful participation and oversight by Indigenous Peoples and host communities.

Relying heavily on nuclear power also affects system flexibility and resilience. Modular and renewable technologies, by contrast, can be deployed incrementally, spread risk, and provide earlier emissions reductions while supporting domestic jobs, including in rural and Indigenous communities. Offshore wind in the Great Lakes, in particular, offers high capacity and stability that can complement other sources and strengthen the electricity system. Regardless of whether the nuclear project proceeds, Ontario must immediately continue developing energy sources that can replace gas-generation sooner, while continuing to expand storage facilities and demand management incentives to reduce emissions in the near term.

In summary, the Wesleyville project raises significant environmental, financial, and societal concerns, including energy security and deployment uncertainty, that warrant careful scrutiny. Decisions made now must prioritize public safety, protect future generations, and ensure that Canada's energy transition is resilient, affordable, and low-risk.

Respectfully,