

# The London Free Press

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## Bruce site described as nuclear bull's-eye

A planned radioactive waste dump would create "a terrorist's dream-come-true," anti-nuclear activists contend.

Free Press news services

OTTAWA — An outdoor radioactive waste dump, a financially troubled company and one of the world's primary freshwater sources are a lethal combination, environmentalists warned yesterday.

They issued that assessment as they called for a public, international review of a proposal to store high-level nuclear waste at the Bruce nuclear power station on the shores of Lake Huron.

"This facility . . . would be a primary terrorist target," said Kevin Kamps, an anti-nuclear activist from Michigan. "It would represent a radioactive bull's-eye in the heart of the Great Lakes, a terrorist's dream-come-true."

British Energy Corp., the financially troubled parent company of Bruce Power, recently

received a multibillion-dollar British government bailout.

Now, Ontario Power Generation, the company that owns and leases eight reactors to Bruce Power and operates the waste storage facilities there, is asking the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for special status.

If given, it would effectively grant the facilities public financial protection for what one activist called "the highest concentration of nuclear risk in the world."

Under Canada's Nuclear Liability Act, insurance companies would have to cover only \$75 million of liability in the event of a radioactive leak.

By comparison, the 1986 Chernobyl disaster has cost the governments of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia more than \$350 billion. Europe requires at least \$600 million coverage for each nuclear facility.

An accident or terrorist attack at the Bruce site could contaminate 20 per cent of the world's fresh water in the Great Lakes Basin "in a heartbeat," said Michael Keegan, head of the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes.

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## BRUCE: 'Let's slow down'

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"Let's take a look at what we're doing. Let's slow down," Keegan said.

He said the Canadian government is "setting itself up for financial extortion."

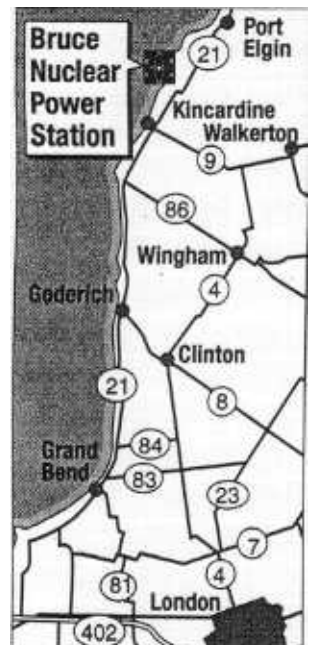
"Once that waste is in place, the Canadian government cannot say: 'We will not subsidize this any longer.' The corporation will go bankrupt, but the Canadian government will be left holding the bag."

The coalition wants the government to order nuclear facilities to set aside bankrupt-proof, segregated funds for decommissioning and waste management.

A spokesperson for Bruce noted the Nuclear Safety Commission has endorsed Bruce Power's safety record.

"(The Nuclear Safety Commission) staff have not observed anything to indicate that the current financial problems being experienced by British Energy PLC have had an adverse impact on safe operations at the Bruce site," the commission said.

John Earl, a spokesperson for Ontario Power Generation, said his firm has followed a detailed ap-



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proval process to expand its waste management facilities at Bruce.

"We have to ensure we meet and we certainly do meet all the regulatory requirements."

Ontario Power Generation operates nuclear plants at Pickering and Darlington. It also owns the Bruce plant, which it leases to a consortium and continues to operate waste-management facilities for storage of low- and medium-level nuclear waste.