



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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The year in review

January: Waterkeeper winning back clean water

Gord Downie and Lake Ontario Waterkeeper Mark Mattson gave an informal presentation and discussion about the efforts to win back clean water and ensure communities on the lake have access to environmental justice. Attendees learned about Waterkeeper's ongoing struggles with the Darlington and Pickering nuclear proposals and the need to assess the potential environmental impacts of these projects, as well as the recent decision regarding Lafarge Cement.



February: Proposed refurbishment of Pickering "B"

Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Environmental Assessment Screening report for the refurbishment of the Pickering "B" Nuclear Generating Station received approval by The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), a key step in the regulatory process to rebuild the aging reactors and extend operations at Pickering "B" until 2060. Waterkeeper objected to the proposed refurbishment, stating that the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be justified in the circumstances and recommending that the CNSC refer the matter to a review panel.

March: Plan to burn "alternative fuels" threatened environment

In response to the request from St. Marys Cement for a temporary approval to burn "alternative fuels" at its Bowmanville and St. Marys locations, Waterkeeper and Gord Downie reviewed the application and forwarded comments to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), citing concerns about the toxins that will be discharged into the environment as a result of incinerating plastic waste. This same month, Waterkeeper made a recommendation to the MOE to implement the ban on tire burning in Ontario that was announced back in 2006.

April: Caution recommended for Green Energy Act

With little public consultation on the matter, Premier Dalton McGuinty announced in fall of 2008 that his government would introduce the Green Energy Act. Waterkeeper submitted comments to the Standing Committee on General Government, which dealt with the definition of "renewable energy source," making documents subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and the need to remove a number of sections of the proposed Act.

May: Navigation Act amended

Since early 2009, when the federal government made amendments to the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA), Waterkeeper has been doing research and making recommendations. In May, Waterkeeper gave a

presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources in Ottawa, where we requested issues concerning the sweeping amendments to the NWPA be investigated during the Senate committee hearings.

June: Submission on air pollution guidelines

This month, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) released "Guideline A-7: Air Pollution Control, Design and Operation Guidelines for Municipal Waste Thermal Treatment Facilities" for public comment. Drawing on expertise gained through the Lafarge Alternative Fuels case, Waterkeeper made a submission to the Ministry of the Environment pointing out that the proposed Guideline does not incorporate the "ecosystem approach" required by the Ministry's Statement of Environmental Values, and runs contrary to the principles of environmental justice and current efforts to decrease greenhouse gases in the province.

July: Possible nuclear expansion at Darlington

The federal government went ahead with the environmental assessment and licensing process for up to four new nuclear reactors to be built at the Darlington nuclear site. Although Ontario's Minister of Energy George Smitherman suggested that the bid to build the reactors was too high, Waterkeeper was eager to remain active in the new nuclear planning process. Waterkeeper submitted a Darlington nuclear project funding request to the CNSC, to be used for research on the environmental impacts on Lake Ontario

of the proposed nuclear plant. The main areas that Waterkeeper has been studying include: the effects of different cooling water systems, how fish habitat design can be optimized and protection of groundwater, and the regulatory process for this project.

August: Radioactive waste dump hearing

The planning process for a low-level radioactive waste management site at Port Hope, Ontario



has been going on for a decade and by August 2009, the licensing process was coming to an end. Waterkeeper intervened in a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission hearing this month and raised concerns about AECOL's proposal to partially treat contaminated water at the landfill. Waterkeeper brought two motions for rulings that will answer important questions: 'Does the CNSC have the jurisdiction to regulate industrial waste disposal?' and 'Does the CNSC have the jurisdiction to regulate the discharge of non-nuclear substances into the environment?'

September: Wind project planned for Prince Edward County

The public comment period for SkyPower Corporation's Proposed Byran Wind Project in Prince Edward County ended on September 24, 2009. Waterkeeper submitted a comment to the Ministry of the Environment, recommending that a full, independent environmental assessment be con-

ducted so that the potential environmental impacts of the project can be properly identified, and then prevented. The Byran Project would result in up to forty-three wind turbines being added to Prince Edward County.

October: Permits for Cameco to take and discharge water

For at least a decade, Cameco has been pulling cooling water from the lake and returning it to the Port Hope harbour without approval from Ontario's

Ministry of the Environment. The government responded by issuing the permit to take water on the condition that Cameco apply for a permit to discharge the water as well. Cameco applied for the permit. Waterkeeper recommended to the MOE that: the Ministry should order Cameco to install the best cooling water systems; Cameco's operation must not contravene on the Fisheries Act by destroying fish or fish habitat, the discharged water must not add to the contamination of the Port Hope harbour; the application must comply with the MOE's Statement of Environmental Values; and the certificate of approval, if granted, should expire in 2012.

November: MNR's green energy policies under review

Earlier in 2009, Ontario

introduced new legislation known as the Green Energy Act, intended to support the development of the renewable energy industry in Ontario. In light of the new Act, the Ministry of Natural Resources announced that it will need to review the policies that govern wind projects and waterpower projects on Crown land. Waterkeeper submitted comments on the policy review and offered a number of recommendations to the MNR to address concerns about bias, transparency, and impacts on Lake Ontario's fisheries.

December: Lafarge Fuels Case comes to an end

After three years, three legal processes, and hundreds of thousands of dollars spent, by the end of 2009, the Lafarge Alternative Fuels case was over. The Lafarge Alternative Fuels project began as a proposal to burn tires, bone meal, plastics, and pellets made of domestic waste at the cement giant's plant in Bath, near Kingston. Against Waterkeeper's recommendation, the MOE approved the project. Waterkeeper and other group proceeded to appeal the licenses. Lafarge and the Ministry brought a legal review of the appeal, but they lost. When it came time for the Tribunal's review to begin, Lafarge cancelled the project altogether.



To read Waterkeeper's submissions or newsletters on any of these issues, please visit our new web site:

www.waterkeeper.ca

Our Team

Staff

President and Waterkeeper: Mark Mattson

Vice President: Krystyn Tully

Counsel: Joanna Bull (Public Interest Articling Student Jan-June)

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Board of Directors

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Jacqueline Wilson

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Lyndsay Hatlelid

Christine Zhou

Matthew Longo

Patrick Stratton

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Financial information

Follow this [link](#) to the CRA website to view our financial information for 2009.



Hard copies of our complete audited statements are available upon request. Just email your request to us at admin@waterkeeper.ca.