



United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

OCT 29 2002

Dear Senator Stabenow:

This is in response to your letter of October 17 concerning Canada's plans for storage of additional radioactive waste at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development complex in Ontario. The United States and Canada have a long record of close cooperation on the physical protection of nuclear materials, as well as on the protection of the waters of the Great Lakes. As noted in your letter, such cooperation is all the more important following the events of September 11, 2001.

The Western Waste Management Area (WWMA) is a newly constructed facility within the Bruce complex. Beginning in November, it will house dry storage canisters containing spent fuel from Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) reactors. Each dry storage canister will have 24-inch thick concrete walls with steel inner and outer liners and a welded cap. Combined with other security measures, these features will provide security for the material stored within the WWMA. The relevant United States Government agencies have all assured us of their intention to maintain their present intense collaboration with Canadian federal and provincial officials on matters concerning the physical security of nuclear materials and on the protection of the Great Lakes.

We hope this information will prove useful to you. If you have additional questions or believe that we may be of further assistance in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul V. Kelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
Debbie Stabenow,  
United States Senate.