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## CNSC head slams anti-nuclear activists for fear mongering

*Jessica Murphy, Parliamentary Bureau*

OTTAWA - Critics of shipping radioactive steam generators through the Great Lakes are anti-nuclear fear mongers, says the head of the federal nuclear watchdog.

Michael Binder took a bite out opponents Tuesday during his testimony in front of a Commons committee probing Bruce Power's proposal to ship decommissioned generators to Sweden for recycling.

"This is not about safety - this is anti-nuclear," he said.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission president insisted it didn't rubber stamp the shipment and completed all necessary safety tests, including independently verifying radiation levels in the decommissioned generators.

Similar shipments have already taken place in Europe without incident, he noted, and allegations it posed a danger to humans and the Great Lakes are "outrageous."

"It's not even close to being a threat to the drinking water," Binder said.

The nuclear watchdog claimed a number of environmental activists had made a career of "scaring the hell out of people with doomsday sentiments" and that he was fed up with the misinformation they were circulating.

Meanwhile, two environmental groups have gone to court to block Bruce Power's plan to ship 16 nuclear steam generators from Kincardine, Ont., through the Great Lakes, up the St. Lawrence and on to Sweden.

The Sierra Club of Canada and the Canadian Environmental Law Association have filed papers in federal court seeking a judicial review of two approvals given by the CNSC to Bruce Power to transport and export the generators.

They're also petitioning Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis to block the proposal.

Opponents charge the CNSC was asleep at the wheel when it gave the shipment the OK and fear it sets a precedent that will turn the Great Lakes into a "highway for nuclear garbage."

"When you have repeated shipments you're playing radioactive roulette," said Gordon Edwards, who's with a Montreal-based anti-nuke group.

The environmentalists have a number of politicians, First Nations groups, and municipalities bordering the Great Lakes, on their side.

Bruce Power CEO Duncan Hawthorne said Tuesday he was sympathetic to their concerns but they were misinformed about the security risks.

"It's much easier to alarm than it is to inform," he said.

The company still needs a number of licenses from various governments, including the U.S. and the U.K., before shipping the goods.