



Harper government tramples on nuclear safety transparency

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The Harper government must explain why it concealed from Canadians a radioactive exposure that endangered workers at the Bruce nuclear power station last November, Liberal Natural Resources Critic Geoff Regan said today.

“The only reason why anyone knows about this dangerous leak is because of a mandatory regulatory filing done in Ottawa by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – and that’s just not good enough,” said Mr. Regan. “The Harper government has a responsibility to be open and transparent with Canadians about events that could impact their health and safety.”

According to the filing made yesterday, as many as 217 workers refurbishing a reactor at the Bruce station in late November may have been exposed to radioactivity. According to media reports, it is believed to be one of the largest-ever mass exposures to radiation at a Canadian nuclear site. (Globe and Mail, Feb. 16, 2010)

“This is part of a pattern by the Harper government to conceal the goings-on at our nuclear facilities,” said Mr. Regan. “Last spring the government failed to immediately advise Canadians of a reactor leak at the Chalk River facility – the third such leak in a six-month period.

“It is simply unacceptable that this government is not more forthcoming with this type of information. Canadians have every right to know about any serious leak or radiation exposure – and not months after the fact.”