
U.S. critic of nuclear energy to give talk

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THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Those who remain opposed to the transportation of spent nuclear fuel rods to a future underground storage site near Ignace may have an unexpected ally: an American.

Maryland-based radioactive waste specialist Kevin Kamps is to make the case for ending dependence on nuclear energy next

week at a Thunder Bay forum.

Kamps, who is based in Takoma Park, "has given numerous presentations and addressed many government forums regarding the risks of radioactive waste generation and storage at reactor sites, and transportation through communities," an Environment North news release said on April 14.

According to the news release, Kamps is known for opposing the ill-fated Yucca Mountain nu-

clear-waste storage site proposal in Nevada. That site was selected in 1987.

"In 2011, after 24 years of opposition, funding for the site ended and the project remains dormant," the news release said.

"Currently, there are plans to construct above-ground consolidated interim storage sites for nuclear waste in Texas and New Mexico," it added.

Opponents to the proposal by the Nuclear Waste Management

Organization to construct an underground storage site just west of Ignace have argued that fuel rods should be stored above ground at nuclear power plants.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization has contended that its plan for the Ignace-area project is safe, and that spent fuel rods will be shipped by rail or truck in specialized containers that can withstand hard impacts and fiery crashes.

The Township of Ignace has

backed the nuclear waste group's plan, while nearby Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation has offered qualified support.

A consortium of other First Nations, including Fort William First Nation and Grassy Narrows First Nation, are opposed to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization plan.

Kamps' presentation is to take place on Wednesday at the Oliver Road Community Centre at 7 p.m.
