

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, July 17, 2009				Report Date	Wednesday, July 8, 2009			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
AECL Closure Report #17/07/09/203									

SUBJECT: Request for the Prime Minister to reverse the decision to stop medical isotope production at Chalk River.

Recommendation: That Council adopt the following motion as requested at the last meeting.

WHEREAS the Conservative Government has announced that the Chalk River nuclear research reactor will cease production of medical isotopes as early as 2016;

AND WHEREAS given the importance of medical isotopes and the uncertainty of supply for those Canadians who now and in the future will need access to this vital diagnostic resource;

AND WHEREAS given the importance of the Chalk River nuclear reactor and research division to the economic well-being of North Renfrew, an area already hard hit by the closures and reductions in the forestry sector and Ontario as a whole;

AND WHEREAS the current government has recently provided billions of dollars of support to the foreign owned automobile sector in southern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS given that the Conservative Government has no plan to provide alternative sources of medical isotopes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria condemns the recent announcement by the Prime Minister and urges the Prime Minister to reverse this decision and to provide adequate funding to ensure that medical isotope production will continue at the Chalk River facility either at a new reactor or by bringing Maple 1 and 2 on line;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Federal Minister of Natural Resources Lisa Raitt, our local MP and MPP, the Federal Leader of the Opposition, The Leader of the NDP, AECL Canada, The County of Renfrew, all area municipalities and AMO for circulation and support.

Background/Executive Summary: Discontinuing medical isotopes production at Chalk River, selling AECL and privatizing the management of the research side will reduce employment in our area and will ultimately result in a lower standard of living for all within the area. The challenge is deciphering what is really happening in the political arena due to political posturing and biased news reports. Because it is difficult to get a definitive answer on what the government will ultimately decide, the motion is neutral simply asking for the Prime Minister to reconsider the medical isotope production decision and commit to producing isotopes in Chalk River.

As you can see from the following internet articles, there are various other underlying concerns such as the sale of the Candu division, the switch to private management for the research division at Chalk River and the decision to remove Canada from reactor production just when it seems the world is accepting nuclear energy as a viable alternative. The perspective is different depending on the source of the information.

Options/Discussion: Support or not. Amend to include support for or against the break-up of AECL into separate identities and sold. Amend to encourage or discourage government funding/backup of AECL for the Ontario projects.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: None immediately. The closure of AECL will eventually result in a declining standard of living for the County which will ultimately affect us. Apparently, closure is not the plan, the discontinuation of medical isotope production is. It is thought that the research facility will continue but for other uses. Please see related articles below.

Policy Impact: None

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith

1. <http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/rss/article/708287>

Fred Chartrand/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An unidentified employee of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. stands in the control room of the plant in Chalk River, Ont., in 2007. The aging research reactor at Chalk River is a key element in developing the next-generation ACR-1000 nuclear reactor, an expert says.

OTTAWA - The aging Chalk River nuclear research reactor, now well-known as a source of medical isotopes, is also crucial to the development of the next-generation nuclear reactor a consortium proposes to build at Point Lepreau - and to its eventual safe operation. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. is still developing the ACR-1000 model and it is relying "very heavily" on the experimental expertise and the 52-year-old national research universal (NRU) reactor at Chalk River, Ont., 180 kilometres northwest of Ottawa.

"That NRU reactor or a research reactor is an essential tool for the continued development of the fuel for the ACR-1000 over its 60-year lifetime," said John Waddington, a nuclear safety consultant. Waddington is a former director general at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and now chairs a panel of independent academics who advise AECL on research. The 1,100-megawatt reactor is the product AECL has put in the window in its bids to build the first new reactors in 30 years in New Brunswick and Ontario. Team Candu, a consortium that includes AECL and several leading private-sector engineering firms, has proposed to finance the construction of an ACR-1000 as the second reactor at Point Lepreau.

The provincial government supports the proposal and is waiting for Team Candu to secure investors. AECL is now in the second stage of a project pre-design review by the CNSC. That process is expected to take until August. Waddington said the current trouble at Chalk River would likely not be more than a minor setback to AECL's development of the ACR-1000. But AECL says the extended outage at Chalk River has had "no impact on the ACR's development." "We're still on target to complete our tests with the NRU," said spokesman Dale Coffin. And if the NRU was offline for longer than expected, the ACR team has a contingency plan that Coffin would not elaborate on.

Other research reactors around the world could perform some of the necessary work, said Waddington, but the NRU has key advantages in its expertise in Candu technology. It is also the only research reactor that loads fuel rods horizontally to mimic the performance of Candu reactors, he said. But Waddington said AECL has to be concerned about the continued development of the ACR-1000 over its lifetime. AECL relies on the research reactor to perform continuing experiments relevant to its fleet of operating reactors.

The research allows for the optimizing of fuel efficiency and to ensure the materials used in the reactor's construction remain safe after decades of use. "To ensure you can continue to operate them at a very high level of safety over their 60-year lifetime, and that is not a small matter, you must have a good research infrastructure," he said. "That must include a research reactor that can mimic what's happening inside your (commercial power-generating) reactor. "You would be very vulnerable indeed, in my opinion, if you did not have a sound research facility."

Chalk River sprang a leak in mid-May and will be offline for repairs until at least mid-August. The shutdown has created a worldwide shortage of medical isotopes. It has also renewed debate about whether the Harper government made the right call last year when it abandoned the development of two research reactors AECL was creating to replace the NRU. The Maple reactors had gone hundreds of millions of dollars over budget and still hadn't met their design criteria. "At some time or another, the government really has to think about replacing that NRU reactor with a modern one," said Waddington. A study a few years ago showed that compared to the amount of electricity the country gets from nuclear reactors, the government of Canada provides only a fraction.

2. <http://www.midlandfreepress.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1646076>

AECL future not firm enough for a deal with province for new reactors Posted By CHRISTINA BLIZZARD

The uncertainty around the future of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) left Infrastructure Minister George Smitherman no alternative but to call a temporary halt to the province's plans to expand the Darlington nuclear plant. It is wise for the province to ask for assurances about the future of AECL, the federal Crown corporation that is the frontrunner to build the new units, before it plunges ahead with \$26 billion in new nuclear construction. Building nuclear plants is risky. We saw that when Darlington was originally built, and costs spiralled. Who is going to underwrite the losses if this one is delayed? Will AECL be around 20 years from now to service the units and provide parts?

It's clear from Smitherman's and Premier Dalton McGuinty's comments that this is part of an ongoing negotiation to get a better deal -- and better reassurances--from the feds. Already, the feds announced they want out of the isotope business. "There is going to be a continuing dialogue with the feds. We want to know whether they are going to backstop AECL, that they believe it has a promising future for all Canadians. If they do, then we want to be a part of that," McGuinty told reporters on a two-day business trip to Washington this week. "The way we see it right now is, the ball is in their court." Fair enough. The AECL blunders at Chalk River and the new MAPLE reactors are not the kind of business practices you like to see on a job application.

All the same, the future of Canada's nuclear industry could be at stake. It's not just AECL whose future is on the line. Countless smaller companies insist they also need AECL to win the contract in order for them to stay alive. Fact is, though, AECL is its own worst enemy. It has no one to blame but itself for its current situation. Why don't they ask for help from the outside to fix their troubled reactors? Ontario Power Generation operates 10 AECL units. They have expertise and workers who are skilled in keeping nuclear plants running -- and they have a better track record than AECL. Why not ask OPG to take a look at Chalk River and the MAPLE reactors? Smitherman says AECL needs to clarify the future of AECL and then "sharpen their pencils substantially so that the people of the province of Ontario can renew their nuclear fleet with two new units from that company." Both McGuinty and Smitherman stressed they are not backing away from their commitment to build new nuclear energy. That's a good thing, because if they want to take the remaining coal-fired plants off-line, they will need more nukes. About 50% of our electricity is nuclear. The existing plants are old. They need refurbishing. And you're not going to replace all that energy with windmills. Eventually, we will need a new nuke. Two foreign firms, France's Areva and U. S.-based Westinghouse are also bidding for the Darlington contract. It is possible the province could negotiate a deal with them that requires them to locally source their supplies.

Ironically, the recession has given Smitherman and McGuinty some breathing space. With steel and auto plants idled, we're not using anywhere near the amount of electricity we once were. One hopes that won't last for ever. When the economy starts to recover, businesses will need reliable, cheap electricity. Our manufacturing sector has taken enough hits recently. Let's not leave our businesses powerless -- literally -- to help themselves.

Article ID# 1646076

3. <http://www.greenparty.ca/en/media-release/2009-05-29/nuclear-firesale>

Nuclear Firesale

Posted May 29th, 2009

OTTAWA--The Harper government is finally taking action to address the massive problems within Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) by selling off its nuclear reactor business and finding a private-sector manager for the faulty Chalk River facility, leaving many questioning where is the accountability to taxpayers?

There is little satisfaction in saying 'we told you so,' but clearly the Greens were the only federal party to grasp the severity of the looming medical isotope crisis and the ineptitude of AECL. The Harper government's decision to take AECL out of the loop in management of the Chalk River mess and sell as a separate operation the Crown corporation reactor division confirms they finally realize the problem was never the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission or its President, Linda Keen. The problem was AECL incompetence. Now we need honest answers to other key questions: how much will taxpayers lose of the almost \$20 billion Canadians have sunk into AECL? Who looks after the nuclear waste? Will the nuclear safety inspectors regain their independence? The Auditor General must review all the details of this sale to ensure we are not losing out once again.

"It is our hope that this sale will protect Canadian taxpayers from further AECL boondoggles and finally end the direct government subsidies to the nuclear industry," said Amy Collard, Natural Resources Critic for the Greens. "In the meantime, we must ensure a reliable supply of medical isotopes from non-nuclear sources, and fast."

The Green Party is calling for the \$7 billion in liabilities resulting from the Chalk River Laboratories to be transferred to a new independent, publicly controlled decommissioning authority under Environment Canada. This mess will have long lasting implications that will require management in perpetuity. Other parts of the lab involved in direct science should go back under the stewardship of the National Research Council.

"The time has come to invest Canadians' money into companies that are actually profitable, well managed, and leaders in green technology. While we divest ourselves of this high risk, high cost, slow moving industry, we must have full accountability to ensure that not one more penny of taxpayers' money is wasted and that safety standards are enforced. This sale must be for the good of Canada, not put profits into the hands of private interests. That said, AECL has been soaking up billions in public money for years and it is high time to pull the plug," said Green Leader Elizabeth May.

"Now the question is, will the Harper government promise not to assume the risks of any new reactors and not to carry over subsidies to any private companies? Any plan to use Canadian tax dollars to build a reactor for Ontario at private profit is unacceptable," said May.

4. <http://www.nuclearcounterfeit.com/?p=1115>

Pondering AECL's future: Who is 'dysfunctional' in Canada?

July 7, 2009 by [admin](#)

Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper may come to regret his blunt language reported in the Economist June 18 in which his spokesman called Atomic Energy Canada Limited (AECL) "dysfunctional." The insulting language, which will undoubtedly affect at least 30,000 votes in Ontario for the next election, came after a series of calamitous events involving AECL's repeated failures to keep the flow of medical isotopes moving from Chalk River and a pre-emptive vote of no confidence from Ontario's Energy Minister over AECL's expensive bid for the \$22 billion Darlington project.

Chalk River and Darlington projects The situation has developed in several parts, but all the pieces come together, but not in a cohesive whole, at AECL's doorstep. The first, and most visible problem, is that ultimately the failures at Chalk River and with the Maple Reactors, while blamed on AECL, in fact represent a failure of political leadership that hits the Harper government with the same force as Harry Truman's famous characterization of accountability – "The Buck Stops Here."

For years the Harper government and previous administrations have ignored AECL's calls for replacement of Chalk River, built in the 1950s, with a modern facility. The fact that the isotope business made money hand-over-fist seemed lost on the government. The failure of the Maple Reactor projects is also in reality a failure of political leadership because the government allowed the future of a critical medical service, with global importance, to be turned into a sandbox for scientists instead of a focused project.

The second, and more damaging development relative to AECL's long-term future, is the action taken by Ontario's Energy Minister George Smitherman. He suspended negotiations with AECL over its bid for the \$22 billion Darlington new nuclear build claiming the crown corporation had failed to adequately sharpen its pencil on price. He also rejected bids by Areva and Westinghouse as being "noncompliant" with the tender. If AECL cannot close a deal on its home turf of Ontario with its new ACR1000 reactor, it is unlikely it will ever sell any for export.

Who will stand behind costs and why? Smitherman should be forgiven, at least in part, for assuming that since AECL is a creature of the Canadian federal government, and as crown corporation, that it would stand behind any cost over runs on the Darlington project. PM Harper said nothing doing and warned that Ontario should not expect a subsidy for its energy needs. The fact that the liberals in Ontario and the conservatives in Ottawa hate each others' guts has plenty to do with the dysfunctional nature of the lack of an agreement on costs.

At the same time the Harper government also threw the future of AECL into further turmoil by announcing a plan to split the organization into two parts. The first part, which is the isotope operations, would shut down Chalk River, along with its \$7 billion cleanup bill, and perhaps build a smaller, conventional reactor for the lucrative medical isotope business.

In the process, Lisa Raitt, the Harper government's minister for energy issues, was caught on tape speculating how her career might be advanced by resolving the isotope shortfalls caused by the Chalk River shutdown. She also left sensitive government documents about the Darlington bid at a TV station resulting in the premature release of confidential business information. She offered her resignation, but it was refused and a 20-something aide took the fall. Understandably, Mr. Harper is not going to brand one of his own ministers as being "dysfunctional" even if her behavior clearly merits the label.

The second part of the Harper/Raitt plan is to sell off for whatever it can get for AECL's nuclear engineering capabilities including services to the global fleet of CANDU reactors. The second step is clearly dysfunctional since it subverts the value proposition of AECL in several ways.

Even a used car salesman would do a better job Instead of supporting AECL to provide a winning bid at Darlington, Harper harried it by calling its history of cost overruns a fiscal "sinkhole." This is the equivalent of a used car dealer telling a potential customer the ride in question is a "beater." In terms of the conventions of salesmanship, there could not be a more "dysfunctional" approach to the problem. It pre-disposed Smitherman to ratchet up the volume on controlling costs setting up all the bidders for failure. Tens of millions in engineering time has been wasted by all three bidders on a dysfunctional process.

In a press release June 29 Smitherman said the AECL bid was "complaint," but was too expensive. In order to achieve a workable deal with AECL, he wants the firm to address reactor new build costs as well as the lifetime cost of power. Normally, with nuclear plants, once they have been depreciated, they are venerable cash cows. The key issue is that AECL bid an untried reactor, one that has never been built before, and which is still in the middle of the design process.

How to really handle 'first-of-a kind' nuclear new builds Since no one knows what it will really cost to build one of the ACR1000s, Smitherman turned to the Harper government to share the risk of getting at least one unit into revenue service. His assumption was that whatever cost over runs the Harper government might incur at Ontario, they would make it up in volume with export earnings. The idea is build the first-of-a-kind reactor in Ontario, make it a show piece, and then sell it globally. It was an eminently useful idea and the Harper government turned it down flat.

The fact that the Harper government didn't buy it illustrates an incredible fit of narrow mindedness. It is a classic formula for the wheels coming off any deal between the provincial Ontario government and AECL. Ms. Raitt, the government's energy minister, told AECL is must build the new reactors at Darlington at a commercially attractive price that would cover all costs. Once that

happened, the Harper government said would be happy to reap the export earnings that would follow.

This is also a case of wanting the cake and frosting and both for free. Anyone who knows anything about the nuclear industry also knows that construction of first-of-a-kind reactors always has risks of cost over runs. Developing workable means of sharing these risks can produce success for all parties. Zero sum political posturing, which is what has happened in Canada, has left all parties concerned with giant headaches and bad feelings about their ability to get along.

AECL must manage upwards What it will take for AECL to succeed is to manage upwards convincing the opportunistic Ms. Raitt and the parsimonious Mr. Harper that it has a plan to put the organization on the right track. It must re-capture its global leadership position for medical isotopes and win the Ontario new reactor bid with the full political support of the federal government. To do this AECL must mount a national campaign to convince Canada's voters that it is in the nation's national interest to revitalize the crown corporation as an international technology leader in the global nuclear industry. It will take business horse sense, technology vision, and real determination to achieve these results. A nation that can convince ice road truckers to brave the winter driving season in the Northwest Territories ought to be able to tackle a few politicians in Ottawa. ACEL has heard the ice cracking underneath its wheels. It should take a lesson from the fact that these truckers wouldn't be able to do the job if they weren't some of the toughest guys out there. It's time for AECL to get tough. Source: [Idaho Samizdat](#)

5. <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/649629>

AECL a \$30B 'sinkhole,' Harper spokesman says

But nuclear expert calls decision not to finance new research reactor 'horribly short-sighted'

Jun 12, 2009 04:30 AM BRUCE CHEADLE THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA—Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief spokesman says Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., is a "dysfunctional," \$30 billion "sinkhole" that will not get any more funding for a new research reactor.

The new, tough tone from the Conservatives comes as a respected nuclear physicist criticizes what he calls a "horribly short-sighted" government decision that effectively pulls the plug on a half-century of multi-faceted Canadian research at AECL's Chalk River laboratories. Harper said this week Canada will get out of the medical isotope business when AECL's 52-year-old National Research Universal reactor gives up the ghost, likely by 2016.

The decision has implications far beyond isotope production, physicist Dominic Ryan of McGill University's Centre for the Physics of Materials told The Canadian Press. Not only has the NRU provided the research base for Canada's nuclear energy industry, it's been a workhorse for neutron-beam research on such non-nuclear applications as analyzing booster rocket welds on the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle and certifying steel safe for bridge-building. "Other nations are investing in research reactors," Ryan, the president of Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering, said yesterday. "And we're just talking about closing the darn things down – the only one we've got. ... It really is annoying."

The institute, which represents more than 400 scientists who use neutron beam research, proposes replicating the NRU with an updated version. But Kory Teneycke, Harper's communication director, made it emphatically clear Ottawa has no interest in such a project. "The government has put \$30 billion into AECL over its history and it's been one of the largest sinkholes of government money probably in the history of the government of Canada," Teneycke said. "So I don't think describing it as an unmitigated success is accurate." He added there's been "well-founded, sharp criticism of the history of AECL. ... I don't think we're going out on a limb to say it has been a fairly dysfunctional place."

Last year, the Tories cancelled two AECL medical isotope reactors at Chalk River, called MAPLES, after they went hundred of millions over budget and still failed to pass inspections. The MAPLES were never designed as multi-purpose research replacements for the NRU. "We are not going to make further investments into the MAPLE – which is the research reactor project at AECL," said Teneycke.

As for another government-built research reactor, that too was shot down. "I don't think anyone is looking at giving a couple of billion dollars more to AECL at this point for a new project," said Teneycke. "What we're focused on is trying to restructure AECL right now." Teneycke later backed away from his earlier comments, saying he "spoke in haste and in error" and should've limited remarks to the MAPLES and not AECL as a whole.

6. <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=1685960>

MDS urges Canada to restart Maple reactor project

Scott Anderson, Reuters Published: Thursday, June 11, 2009

TORONTO -- MDS Inc's chief executive said on Thursday that comments by Prime Minister Stephen Harper that Canada would eventually stop making medical isotopes were "curious" and "confusing", and called on Ottawa to restart its mothballed Maple isotope reactor project. Mr. Harper told reporters on Wednesday that Canada would eventually get "out of the business" of making medical isotopes. The country produces about a third of world supply at its aging Chalk River nuclear reactor in eastern Ontario, but that facility is experiencing a lengthy maintenance shutdown.

MDS chief executive Stephen DeFalco, whose company markets the medical isotopes produced in Chalk River, assailed the prime minister's comments, pointing to conflicting remarks from other departments and agencies on the same day. "I find Stephen Harper's comments a little bit confusing given other message yesterday coming out from other areas of the government," he said on a conference call with analysts. "Our perspective is that the only viable solution is the Maples in dealing with the current situation. The Maple project was built explicitly to avoid the current situation the Canadian government finds itself in."

Ottawa halted construction of the Maple project last year. It was planned to be a replacement for the 50-year-old Chalk River unit and take over the production of isotopes. The isotopes are used for diagnosing cancer, heart disease and other medical conditions. They have a short shelf life and hospitals are already reporting supplies are running low. Mr. DeFalco said the supply of these isotopes is "scarce" after the Chalk River reactor was taken out of service in May because of a small leak of heavy water, used in the reaction process. Government-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd, which runs the facility, says it will be down for at least three months.

MDS's Nordion unit, which markets the isotopes worldwide, urged the government and AECL earlier this month to consult with international experts in hopes of reactivating the Maple project. Maple was scrapped by Ottawa last year because of cost overruns and technical problems, prompting MDS to file a \$1.6-billion claim against AECL and the Canadian government. MDS also warned on Thursday that the isotope situation could have a "negative effect" on its revenue, EBITDA and cash flow and, as a result, it could breach a financial covenant related to a U.S. dollar note sometime in 2010. Earlier, the health sciences company, had warned the financial impact of the shutdown would reduce its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization by about \$4-million a month.

MDS shares, which have dropped 67% in the past year, on disappointing results and falling demand for medical instruments, were up 1.6% at \$5.69. Earlier on Thursday MDS said it lost US\$17-million, or 15 cents a share, in the second quarter, ended April 30, compared with a profit of US\$13-million, or 11 cents a share, for the same period last year. On an adjusted basis, it earned 3 cents a share, down from 8 cents a year earlier. Revenue fell 19.4% to \$282-million. Analysts had expected, on average, earnings of 6 cents a share before special items, and revenue of

\$274.4-million, according to Reuters Estimates. The company, which is narrowing its contract research focus by selling its late-stage research division and its Central Labs division, said it plans to cut 180 jobs in the third quarter, resulting in a charge of about US\$4-million. It estimates the move will result in average annual savings of about US\$9-million.

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7. <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=1683043>

Canada to get out of isotopes game: Harper

David Akin, Canwest News Service Published: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

OTTAWA -- Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada plans to leave the production of medical isotopes to other countries -- despite the fact that for a time last year, this country was producing nearly all such isotopes in the world. "Eventually, we anticipate Canada will be out of the business," Mr. Harper said Wednesday. The Liberals and NDP along with some Canadian and U.S. nuclear scientists and MDS Nordion, the Ottawa company that wholesales the isotopes produced by Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., at its reactor in Chalk River, Ont., had been pushing the government to reconsider a backup plan for the reactor.

Mr. Harper's announcement came shortly after Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt delivered a tearful apology to cancer patients "she may have offended" when she told an aide in January that the cancer and the isotope shortage was a "sexy issue" that could boost her political career. Ms. Raitt has been under fire since May 14 when the 52-year-old Chalk River reactor, known as the NRU was shut down after it began leaking radioactive water.

The reactor produces 80% of the isotopes used by two million Canadian cancer and heart disease patients every year. AECL had built two backup reactors to the NRU, known as MAPLE-1 and MAPLE-2, which were to have gone into service in 2000. But AECL could never satisfy the Canadian nuclear regulator that it would be possible to accurately predict how the MAPLEs would operate under certain conditions. So, with the project years behind schedule, AECL, with the backing of Mr. Harper's government, shut it down last spring. "It was a difficult decision but we can't spend hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars and never produce an isotope," Mr. Harper said. "I'm not even going to blame the previous Liberal government for it. It happened under their watch but, for whatever reason, Atomic Energy was not able to make that project work and there was no prospect that it would work. What we decided to do instead is invest money in repair of the (NRU) while other sources come online."

However, that opinion clearly is not shared by all. Executives from MDS Nordion will testify at a House of Commons committee hearing Thursday, where they are expected to make the case for continuing with the MAPLE project. In fact, they will present evidence that isotopes were made by the MAPLE project in early testing. Engineering sources at Chalk River and elsewhere have told Canwest News Service that the MAPLEs are in "cold standby" and could be fired up to produce isotopes, perhaps within months. The Liberals have called for international experts to review AECL's conclusion to kill the MAPLEs. ...