

Jones bothered OPG didn't talk to her about nuclear disposal site

By Bill Rea

A story in the business section of Tuesday's Toronto Star raised a few eyebrows locally, but officials aren't too concerned yet. The story, under the byline of Business Reporter John Spears, referred to the possibility of a third nuclear waste disposal site in Ontario, and the Orangeville area was mentioned, but only in passing.

It stated two such sites have already been publicly discussed, and there is now mention of a third, to store decommissioning waste from reactors that have been taken out of service and dismantled.

That could conceivably place the proposed site somewhere in the Orangeville area, suggested Brennain Lloyd of Northwatch, who first noticed the proposal in a blizzard of documents filed with the safety commission, Spears wrote. Northwatch is a coalition of environmental and community groups in northeastern Ontario.

The story also stated the idea of a separate site for decommissioning waste emerged from material filed by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) at hearings into the license renewal for the Pickering nuclear station.

It was news to me, as they say, remarked Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, adding she first heard of the matter when she read Tuesday's paper.

To me, it's passing strange that the OPG would go public with something like this without first talking to me; (or) the mayor, she commented.

Jones said she'll be writing to get clarification of the comments in the Star story.

I'm going to reach out to OPG and say, give what you hear, what you know, she said.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison hadn't heard anything about it either, and she couldn't imagine where in the area a facility like that could go.

You can't put it in a gravel pit, she said. That's crazy.