

March 4, 2009

# What is the Tritium Awareness Project?

Today's press conference launches the Tritium Awareness Project (TAP), a cooperative effort involving Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, the Sierra Club of Canada, the Ottawa Riverkeeper, le Mouvement vert Mauricie, and other groups.

The mission of TAP is to raise public awareness about radioactive tritium, sometimes referred to as "Canada's national radionuclide" because Canada is the world's leading producer of tritium.

TAP aims to demystify this dangerous material for the public as well as for politicians. TAP is dedicated to the tightening of overly permissive tritium standards, and to reducing emissions of tritium and public exposures to it.

TAP is calling for a new spirit of frankness and scientific integrity in addressing the environmental and health hazards associated with tritium, as well as matters of national and international security concerning tritium's use as a nuclear explosive material.

In an appendix to this communiqué, TAP provides information that was originally withheld from the public and from our elected representatives regarding recent events at the NRU reactor in Chalk River, Ontario:

- \* How much tritium was released into the environment from Dec. to Feb.?
- \* What are the actual tritium levels in the Ottawa River?
- \* How are those who drink treated water from the Ottawa River impacted?