Written submission from Rena Ginsberg

In the Matter of

Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Request for a ten-year renewal of its Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

June 2018
Date: May 7, 2018

To: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

From: Rena Ginsberg

Re: Ref. 2018-H-03

Hearing dates: June 26–28, 2018

I wish to present only in writing, by providing a written submission, as follows:

I urge the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to refuse the application from Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) to renew its Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) until 2024.

The Pickering NGS reactors are out-of-date and therefore do not meet modern international safety standards. For instance, they were not designed to withstand terrorist attacks. And as they continue to operate beyond their design life, the risk of a serious accident increases, especially given the history of near-miss accidents at the Pickering NGS. With over 1 million people living within 20 km of the station, a serious accident would be catastrophic.

Furthermore, the power generated by the Pickering NGS is not needed. Most of that power is surplus and is exported to the U.S.! So Ontario communities aren’t using the power generated but are shouldering the burden of the waste created and the risks involved.

There is thus no reason for the Pickering NGS to continue operating beyond August 31, 2018, and there are many compelling reasons for it to cease operation.

The reactors should, furthermore, be decommissioned right away, to benefit from the expertise of the current employees who know the technology well and to reduce safety concerns.

The welfare of Ontario communities must not take second place to OPG’s economic objectives. I hope the CNSC will consider the weight of evidence that shows that renewing the licence for the Pickering NGS would be counter to the public good.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this public hearing.