Written submission from Cathy Tafler

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

Mémoire de Cathy Tafler

À l’égard de

Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Demande de renouvellement, pour une période de dix ans, de son permis d’exploitation d’un réacteur nucléaire de puissance à la centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Audience publique de la Commission – Partie 2

Juin 2018
Dear Commissioners,

I grew up in Don Mills and have lived in Toronto all of my life. The Pickering Nuclear Power Station was always present in my life as an ominous presence.

How the power plant was ever located beside one of the most populated areas in Canada is hard to understand. Certainly knowing all that we know now about the dangers of nuclear reactors, continuing the operation of Pickering beyond its design life is totally irresponsible.

I implore you to reject the proposed renewal of the operating license for Pickering.

The age of the reactor is of huge concern. Allowing Ontario Power Generation to once again extend the lease on the plant is not only dangerous but it is unnecessary. Pickering’s output is mostly not needed. Most of Pickering’s energy is exported at a loss.

The continued operation of this plant is for political reasons including pressure about potential job losses from OPG and the Province of Ontario. However, there will be decontamination required and the logical people to undertake that work would be the people currently employed at Pickering who have the expertise and knowledge of the facility. So there will still be some jobs. But there also should be planning done to help workers transition into the renewable energy sector.

Based on experience from Fukushima & Chernobyl, the effects of a nuclear disaster extend far beyond 10 km and detailed emergency planning should include a much greater radius. But it is very difficult to predict what might take place in a nuclear disaster. Why unnecessarily risk the lives of so many people in Ontario and beyond and live with the knowledge that an accident could have been avoided if the plant was just closed down?

It is unfortunate that the hearings are not in Toronto so I cannot make an oral submission. I hope that this written submission will be taken as seriously as an oral presentation.

Thank you,

Cathy Tafler