



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Belinda Cole**

**Mémoire de
Belinda Cole**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
Toronto and Peterborough Facilities**

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
installations de Toronto et Peterborough**

Application for the renewal of the licence for
Toronto and Peterborough facilities

Demande de renouvellement du permis pour les
installations de Toronto et Peterborough

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

March 2 to 6, 2020

Du 2 au 6 mars 2020

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laissée en blanc*

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Dear Commissioners,

RE: BWXT's Licence Applications – March 2 & 3 in Toronto & March 5 & 6 in Peterborough

My 4 children and I live about 500 m from the BWXT plant in Toronto. I urge you to deny BWXT's Application to continue to operation of the Toronto-based pellet plant. It is time to shut it down altogether – not merely shift the unconscionable health risks to the people of Peterborough. The continued licensing of BWXT's leaves our communities with daily – and irreparable harm.

Marco Kaltofen, a nuclear forensics expert – and associate research engineer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts said “an alpha emitter — of all the forms of radiation, can be the most devastating. There is not a safe level of alpha radiation.”

The BWXT plant is toxic – releasing alpha radiation and poisons into our neighbourhood air and water system and ultimately into Lake Ontario – the source of well-being for millions of Ontarians – and other citizens and species that depend on it. Granting the BWXT application - to extend BWXT's continued toxic discharges in our – or anyone else's neighbourhood - risks our well-being and most basic means of survival – for corporate profit – and to fuel an arms trade that kills other people's children.

Several years ago, I reviewed the Emergency Plan for the neighbourhood pellet plant – and passed along my findings to the Commission. The Plan contained no measures for the protection or disclosure of information to the neighbourhood. And, all of the 3 “emergency” contact numbers given in the Plan were ‘dead links’ - which referred me to other numbers. When I finally reached someone at the third number, he said he had no information about an emergency plan. At the last CNSC public meeting, I was told that emergency plans are a ‘provincial’ matter. The CNSC regulates BWXT and is in charge of public safety. I am guessing that filing an emergency plan is a condition of licensing.

8 years ago, our neighbourhood requested information about BWXT's insurance plan. The CNSC continues to deny our request - we're told this is ‘proprietary information’. It is our neighbourhood at stake here – we are the ‘proprietors’. It's time for the CNSC to provide this information – it is our neighbourhood and we are the one affected day-to-day and in the event of an additional emergency.

BWXT has been named in a class action lawsuit in Ohio for failing to adequately protect people and the environment. When a nearby school became contaminated with enriched uranium, it was shut down. The lawsuit states that:

Defendants, through their silence as well as their aggressive public relation efforts, have reassured the public and Plaintiffs that their operations have not contaminated nearby properties. In particular, Defendants made misrepresentations that were meant to assure Plaintiffs that the Portsmouth Site presents absolutely no danger to public health.

BWXT is part of the larger, longer nuclear chain, which poisons water, lands and people throughout Canada and world-wide. This chain has led to tritium poisoning of Lake Ontario. On June 22 & 23, 2017, the CNSC was informed by the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office that after a heavy downpour in the Cobourg and Port Hope areas **untreated – radioactive - water overflowed into Lake Ontario – our drinking water source**. Untreated radioactive water spills into our water after a mere ‘heavy downpour’. There is no safe way to dispose of nuclear wastes - the CNSC and nuclear industry shift the legacy of poisoned lands, waters and people to the public and other species. I call on the CNSC to insist on proven, publicly verified safe disposal of nuclear waste as a condition of BWXT’s – and all nuclear licensing applications.

The energy supplied by nuclear energy in Ontario can – and must - be replaced by renewables, conservation, and imports from Quebec. I am willing to pay a premium for safe, renewable energy. I am not willing – nor do I or anyone else – have the authority to jeopardize the priceless inheritance of the clean, safe water my children, grand-children and future generations and species rely upon to survive and thrive.

The glass of water we all share at this hearing – and depend upon everyday in our homes - is our most basic need – and our most basic, shared inheritance. Together with the intervenors in both Toronto and Peterborough, I’m calling on you to take a rational, reasoned and responsible stand and deny BWXT’s application – and to require instead – that BWXT provides neighbours with both the plan – and the funds – to deal with nuclear waste on-site now. It’s time to shut BWXT down all together.

The CNSC has a mandate to protect Canadians. Are you willing to take a stand and protect the gifts of water, lands and species that sustain us all?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Belinda Cole

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Toronto Ontario

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