



**Written submission from
Peter Tabuns, MPP,
Toronto-Danforth**

**Mémoire de
Peter Tabuns, député provincial,
Toronto-Danforth**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station**

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
centrale nucléaire de Pickering**

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

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

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

**Audience publique de la Commission –
Partie 2**

June 2018

Juin 2018



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PETER TABUNS

MPP/DÉPUTÉ PROVINCIAL
Toronto-Danforth

c/o Louise Levert
Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5S9
Via Email: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

May 1, 2018

Subject: Ensuring Transparency and Public Safety (Ref. 2018-H-03)

Dear Commissioners,

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is requesting an unprecedented ten-year licence for the Pickering nuclear station. It also wants permission to operate the station until 2024 despite having previously told the Commission in 2013 that it would close the station in 2020.

My constituents live approximately twenty-five kilometers from the Pickering nuclear station. The station's continued operation raises questions about the adequacy of offsite nuclear emergency response planning.

In regard to public safety and nuclear emergency planning, I support resolutions passed recently by Durham Region and the City of Toronto advocating for transparency, public consultation, funding, strengthening emergency preparedness wherever feasible, protection of vulnerable communities, and world-class public safety. With Pickering so close to Toronto, I believe Torontonians should be provided nothing less than world-class public safety.

I also support the City of Toronto's request that the CNSC require awareness campaigns to inform Torontonians on how to prepare for a nuclear accident at the Pickering nuclear station. If you approve Pickering's continued operation, I urge the Commission to implement Toronto's request and ensure my constituents are provided with information on how to prepare for a potential nuclear emergency.

I also urge the Commission to seriously consider the resolution passed by Durham Region requesting "...OPG prepare and publish plans on how it will mitigate negative impacts of the station's retirement, including transition plans for affected workers, in advance of the stations' closure."

The NDP advocates for just transition policies so workers and communities will not pay the price as society shifts to modern and cleaner sources of energy generation. The Commission can create the conditions to encourage just transition policies for Pickering's workforce by requiring OPG to release sufficient information on its plans for Pickering's inevitable closure.

I believe worker transition planning has been put off far too long. OPG and the provincial government announced they would not proceed with the refurbishment and life-extension of Pickering in 2010. Although OPG is now asking to again continue operating the plant beyond its original design life, the station will inevitably close without refurbishment. I thus encourage the Commission to support Durham Region's request.

Finally, I would like to bring the Commission's attention to the findings of report released in April 2018 by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO). The ECO observed that there has been no independent review of whether Pickering's continued operation makes financial sense. The ECO also observed that Pickering causes significant electricity surpluses. The ECO found there is good reason to "doubt that extended operation of Pickering is in the best interests of Ontarians."

The ECO report recommended that "If Pickering's operating license is extended by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Ontario should report to the public whether the Pickering extension still makes sense, and if so, why."

The NDP supports more transparent and accountable decision-making for Ontario's energy sector. Although the final decision on whether Pickering's continued operation is permitted falls outside of the CNSC's mandate, I encourage the Commission to be cognizant of the uncertainties related to Pickering's continued operation and ensure appropriate and transparent contingency planning is in place to mitigate any negative impacts on Pickering's workforce.

Thank you for your attention. Please contact me if you require any clarifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Tabuns".

Peter Tabuns MPP,
Toronto-Danforth