



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Submission from
Belinda Cole**

**Mémoire de
Belinda Cole**

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

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Dear Commissioners,

RE: Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s Application to extend Pickering's Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence (Part 2): June 26–28, 2018

I urge you to deny OPG's Application to continue to operation of the already outdated Pickering Nuclear Reactors. The OPG's proposal is entirely unacceptable for numerous reasons outlined below.

Most importantly, the Pickering reactor poses huge, unconscionable, and irremediable risks to the safety and well-being of millions of Ontarians – and other citizens and species that depend on Lake Ontario. The OPG application proposes that my neighbours and I – 40 million people and countless species who rely upon Lake Ontario to survive – risk our well-being and most basic means of survival at our own cost – to extend OPG's aging, dangerous reactors – for their profits. If something goes wrong, we lose our drinking water, survival and the well-being of all species. And the OPG – like other nuclear operators – is protected with their legislated cap of \$ 1 million in liability.

It's time to enforce the condition of OPG's 2013 licence renewal – and close Pickering in 2020.

CNSC has already extended OPG's licence to 2020 – 6 years past the date Pickering was to close. It is entirely unacceptable that OPG's licence be further extended, and I am calling on the CNSC to enforce the conditions of its 2013 licence.

Even under the existing 2013 licence, Ontarians and all inhabitants of the Great Lakes are facing unacceptable risks. To further extend this licence - in light of everything we know about Fukushima and Chernobyl - is madness. The Pickering Reactors are the oldest in Canada, and well past their operating design life. Nor does Pickering's design meet modern international nuclear safety standards.

Even more dangerous, Pickering's 6 operating reactors do not meet International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety guidelines. We have seen the continuing disaster in Fukushima – which had a far superior 'safety' system. Even with one containment system for each reactor – the disaster – whose full effects are not even known – has devastated people in Japan and threatened the well-being of neighbouring countries and poisoned countless species of animals and fish.

Unlike at Fukushima, Pickering's 6 reactors share a single containment system. OPG's savings on fundamental, critical safety currently risk the lives and well-being of 40 million people, an unknown number of species, and the drinking water half of Ontario relies on to survive. So, in the event of an accident at more than one reactor, Pickering has a far more limited ability to contain radiation releases than Fukushima had.

Even if the Pickering reactors were new, with necessary world-class safety features, nuclear reactors have no place in highly populated areas like the GTA and the communities extending 100 kms around Pickering. In the highly probably event of an accident, I see no evidence of how or where the 1,000,000 inhabitants in the area would be evacuated. Fukushima and Chernobyl were both located in rural areas. It was necessary to evacuate only 150,000 people in Fukushima – not almost 7 times the number of people in the immediate area around Pickering.

Even if evacuation were possible, an accident would contaminate the water supply for half of the individuals and families in Ontario. What is OPG's plan to replace the daily drinking water for 7 million people in Ontario, not to mention our American neighbours, or to protect the species who depend upon Lake Ontario?

We are already suffering the consequences of Ontario reactors – with tritium in our drinking water. Extending OPG's licence - yet again past its operating life - further threatens our water and everyday safety. It is simply unacceptable.

OPG's application asks us to take on huge, additional, foolish risks for their profit. I am not willing to pay the price shifted from the OPG and other nuclear operators to the citizens of Ontario. As we all know, OPG and the rest of the operators are protected from the consequences of an entirely likely nuclear disaster. Cleaning up the poison - if that is even possible- will be our job – as Ontario and Great Lakes citizens.

40 years after OPG's undertaking to safely deal with nuclear waste from its reactors – as a condition of its licence, there is still no plan. There is, as we all know, no safe way to store nuclear waste. OPG, which has not met the most basic steps to ensure the safe disposal of the tons of *existing* nuclear waste housed on our lakeshore – is applying to create still more waste without any plan to dispose of it – by continuing to operate a highly dangerous reactor long past its design life. OPG wants to extend its operating licence – although it has yet to fulfill the most basic safety undertaking of its application 40 years ago.

We are already dealing with the effects of nuclear wastes that have not been safely disposed of. Last June 22 & 23rd, 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’. What do we reasonably expect will happen with the effect of a significant storm on accumulated tons of nuclear waste at Pickering – and outdated reactors without even the safety features of the Fukushima reactors?

This application is unthinkable in every aspect. And, Ontario does not even *need* the power from the Pickering reactors - most of which is exported to Michigan. The small amount of energy Pickering supplies to 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 City of Toronto, and intervenors throughout Ontario, I’m calling on you to take a rational, reasoned and responsible stand and deny OPG’s short-sighted, unnecessary, and potentially lethal proposal to extend Pickering’s operation well past its design life. And to require that the OPG provide both the plan – and the funds – to deal with the tons of nuclear waste on-site now.

The CNSC has a mandate to protect Canadians. Is there a more basic protection than the gift of water that none of us can do without - the water that gives life – and sustains us all?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Belinda Cole