

# Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision

In the Matter of

Applicant Hydro-Québec

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Subject Application to amend the Gentilly-2 Nuclear  
Generating Station Operating Licence

Date December 16, 2008

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Hydro-Québec

Address: 4900 Bécancour Boulevard, Gentilly, Bécancour, Quebec  
G9H 3X3

Purpose: Application to amend the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station  
Operating Licence with Respect to the Deadline for Conducting  
Testing of the Leak Rate from the Reactor Building

Application received: July 22, 2008  
April 28, 2008

Date of hearing: December 16, 2008

Location: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), 280 Slater St.,  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ottawa, Ontario

Members present: M. Binder, Chair

Secretary: K. McGee  
Recording Secretary: S. Dimitrijevic

**Licence: amended**

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## **Introduction**

1. Hydro-Québec has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)<sup>1</sup> for an amendment to its nuclear power reactor operating licence for nuclear power reactor PROL 10.01/2010, authorizing it to operate the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Quebec. The purpose of the application is to extend the deadline for conducting testing of the leak rate from the reactor building while the building is subjected to maximum design pressure.
2. According to this application, the testing that was originally scheduled to be conducted by Hydro-Québec by December 31, 2008, would be postponed to June 30, 2009, at the latest.
3. Hydro-Québec has also applied for an amendment to the revision number of document DRP-20, “Fournir le plan des mesures d’urgence de Gentilly-2” referred to in Appendix B of this licence. According to the application, Revision 0 of the document would be replaced by Revision 1.

## Issues

4. In considering the application, the Commission was required to decide, pursuant to subsection 24(4) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*<sup>2</sup> (NSCA):
  - (a) whether Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence would authorize; and
  - (b) whether, in carrying on those activities, Hydro-Québec would make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

## Hearing

5. Pursuant to section 22 of the NSCA, the Chair of the Commission has established a Panel of the Commission to review the application.
6. The Panel of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”), in making its decision, considered information presented within the context of a hearing held on December 16, 2008, in Ottawa, Ontario. During the hearing, the Commission considered written submissions from CNSC staff (CMD 08-H146) and Hydro-Québec (CMD 08-H146.1).

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<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is referred to as the “CNSC” when referring to the organization and its staff in general and as the “Commission” when referring to the tribunal component.

<sup>2</sup> S.C. 1997, c. 9.

7. In establishing the hearing process, the Commission, through a standing panel on procedural matters, determined that it was not necessary to hold a public hearing on the matter, and the hearing was conducted by a panel of one Commission member, based on written submissions.

### **Decision**

8. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concluded that Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activities that the amended licence would authorize and that Hydro-Québec, in carrying on those activities, will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

Accordingly, the Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, amends the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station operating licence. The amended licence, PROL 10.02/2010, remains valid until December 31, 2010.

### **Issues and Commission Findings**

9. In making its decision, the Commission considered a number of issues relating to Hydro-Québec's qualification to carry on the proposed activities and the adequacy of the proposed measures for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

### **Qualifications and Protection Measures**

10. Hydro-Québec submitted an application to amend condition 3.6 of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station operating licence (PROL 10.01/2010) to extend the deadline for conducting testing of the leak rate from the reactor building while the building is subjected to maximum design pressure. The effect of changing the deadline is a temporary change to the testing schedule and requires CNSC approval.

11. Hydro-Québec proposed to postpone the deadline for testing to June 30, 2009, and submitted an application to the CNSC requesting approval, including a technical report justifying the postponement of the pressure test. The documentation submitted revealed that, in light of the results of past tests, the change in the leak rate would not be enough to significantly affect leakage from the reactor building.
12. Leak rate testing was planned for the April 2008 shutdown but could not be conducted owing to an incident involving a fuelling machine in the reactor building, which engaged all the resources of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station.
13. CNSC staff has reviewed Hydro-Québec's submissions. Since the application to postpone testing is for a six-month period, CNSC staff is satisfied that the deadline requested by Hydro-Québec poses no risk to the health and safety of persons or to the environment.
14. Hydro-Québec also applied for an amendment to the revision number of document DRP-20 "Fournir le plan des mesures d'urgence de Gentilly-2" referred to in Appending B of the operating licence. According to the application, Revision 0 of the document would be replaced by Revision 1. Hydro-Québec submitted an application for CNSC approval of changes to paragraph 4, entitled "Description des activités" and use of the new revision of DRP-20 in its operating licence.
15. CNSC staff is satisfied that the document would still meet the CNSC regulatory requirements referred to in Regulatory Guide G-225 "Emergency Planning at Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills," and that the proposed changes are essentially an information reorganization.
16. CNSC staff has recommended approval of the amendment to condition 3.6 of operating licence PROL 10.01/2010 and acceptance of the new revision of document DRP-20.

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

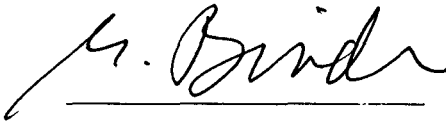
17. The Commission is satisfied that an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*<sup>3</sup> (CEAA) is not required before it can proceed to make a decision on the licence amendment application. The Commission is satisfied that all CEAA requirements have been met.

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<sup>3</sup> S.C. 1992, c. 37.

**Conclusion**

18. The Commission has considered the submissions by CNSC staff and Hydro-Québec, as placed on the hearing record.
19. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concludes that Hydro-Québec is qualified to carry on the activities authorized under the amended licence.
20. The Commission also concludes that Hydro-Québec will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
21. The Commission therefore amends, pursuant to section 24 of the NSCA, the Hydro-Québec licence for operation of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station. The amended licence remains valid until December 31, 2010, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.



Michael Binder  
Chair  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

DEC 16 2008

Date