



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

## Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision

In the Matter of

Requestor Hydro-Québec

Purpose Application to amend Hydro-Québec's licence to  
operate the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating  
Station

Hearing  
Date February 7, 2012

## Record of Proceedings

Applicant: Hydro-Québec

Address: 4900 Bécancour Blvd., Gentilly, Bécancour, Quebec G9H 3X3

Purpose: Application to amend Hydro-Québec's Gentilly-2 operating licence.

Application received: July 14, 2011

Date of hearing: February 7, 2012

Location: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), 280 Slater St., Ottawa, Ontario

Members present: M. Binder, Chair

Secretary: M. Leblanc

Recording Secretary: D. Carrière

Licence: Amended

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## **Introduction**

1. Hydro-Québec has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission<sup>1</sup> (CNSC) for an amendment to its licence to operate the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station, located in Bécancour, Quebec. The current licence, PERP 10.00/2016, expires on June 30, 2016.
2. The derived release limits (DRLs) represent the annual rate of release of radioactive isotopes that must not be exceeded by the licensee. To implement CSA standard N288.1-08 *Guidelines for Calculating Derived Release Limits for Radioactive Material in Airborne and Liquid Effluents for Normal Operation of Nuclear Facilities* when renewing the licence for the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station, Hydro-Québec submitted DRL values and the methodology for calculating those values to the CNSC for approval in December 2010 and January 2011 respectively. The DRL values were approved by CNSC staff in March 2011 and included in the operating licence that became effective on July 1, 2011.
3. In July 2011, Hydro-Québec notified CNSC staff that two of the DRL values cited on the licence were erroneous. Hydro-Québec requested that the Commission amend the licence to correct those two DRL values.

### *Issue*

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 amended 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 President of the Commission established a Commission panel to review the application. The Commission, in making its decision, considered information presented at a hearing held on February 7, 2012, in Ottawa, Ontario. It therefore examined the submissions of Hydro-Québec (CMD 11-H123.1) and CNSC staff (CMD 11-H123).

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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>Statutes of Canada (S.C.) 1997, chapter (c.) 9.

## Decision

6. Based on its consideration of the matter, as described in more detail in the following sections of this record of proceedings, the Commission concludes that Hydro-Québec meets the conditions of subsection 24(4) of the NSCA.

Therefore, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, the Commission amends nuclear power reactor operating licence PERP 10.00/2016, issued to Hydro-Québec for its Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station in Bécancour, Quebec. The amended licence, PERP 10.01/2016, remains valid until June 30, 2016.

## Issues and Commission Findings

### *Qualifications and protection measures*

7. Hydro-Québec applied for an amendment to its operating licence in order to integrate the corrected DRL values for aerosols and total beta. In its application, Hydro-Québec indicated that the values of certain DRLs in table A.3 of the operating licence were not those that had been approved by CNSC staff in March 2011. CNSC staff claim to have examined Hydro-Québec's application and determined that the incorrect DRL values in the licence were due to an administrative error.
8. CNSC staff determined that the corrected DRL values for aerosols and total beta presented in Hydro-Québec's application are acceptable and compliant with CSA standard N288.1-08. CNSC staff also determined that the corrected DRL values have no impact on environmental or public safety.

### *Application of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

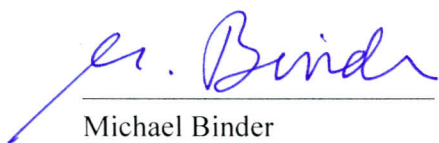
9. Before making a licensing decision, the Commission must be satisfied that all applicable requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*<sup>3</sup> (CEAA) have been fulfilled.
10. The Commission is of the view that, since the changes are purely administrative, an environmental impact assessment is not required before the Commission can consider the licence amendment application.

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

### Conclusion

11. The Commission has considered the information and submissions of Hydro-Québec and CNSC staff. The Commission concludes that the proposed amendments are of an administrative nature, and will not have a negative impact on the safety of operations at the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station. The Commission is also of the view that a consultation with Aboriginal persons is not required regarding the proposed amendments.
12. The Commission considers that all applicable requirements of the CEAA have been satisfied.
13. The Commission therefore amends, pursuant to section 24 of the NSCA, Hydro-Québec's licence to operate the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station in Bécancour, Quebec. The amended licence, PERP 10.01/2016, remains valid until June 30, 2016.



Michael Binder  
President  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

FEB 07 2012

Date