



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Submission from
Dan Rudka**

**Mémoire de
Dan Rudka**

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

C.N.S.C.,
Interventions,
280 Slater St.,
PO Box 1406, Station B,
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1P-5S9

Dan Rudka,
Newcastle, Ontario,

May 01 2018

Please accept this **request to present an “oral presentation” to the CNSC**, at the **public hearing June 26-28 2018 for OPG Pickering Nuclear Power Plant**, regarding a license renewal.

The following is my written submission intervention statement for the above hearing to the CNSC Board Members.

There will be referral to other concern or examples not related directly to this hearing, but overall important. My “oral presentation” will stay focused on the OPG Pickering license, not include history on Port Hope and my personal situation, how it has evolved, as presented in part of this statement.

I am requesting to speak, due to personal experience and knowledge gained from this background, as I am a nuclear exposure victim, a former nuclear energy worker, from Port Hope. I have over been ill for over 20 years with numerous afflictions related to exposure victims, including a double lung transplant. My exposure originally in doubt, now conclusive, tested and proven, I will not debate this. Since, I have learned a great deal about nuclear and health. I have through misfortune a very unique perspective that most do not, including the CNSC and this Board, respectfully. I would like to present information from this knowledgeable perspective, now in much need of mention due to new medical findings not related to nuclear but a factor.

Members of the CNSC Board,

I will comment on one initial point, although there are many, an example of concern at the OPG Pickering Nuclear Power Plant and then proceed to other points of concern and information.

The Pickering Plant as all know is an old facility at 47 years, and only so much can be refurbished, if certain controls can be refurbished at all. All compounds, concrete, metal, piping everything ages, deteriorates, weakens, breaks down in strength, a simple fact. There are 8 reactors and one 'vacuum building' to contain any foreign radioactive emission on a large scale should there be an incident. Should more than one reactor, three, four, have a serious incident or failure how much will that vacuum building hold before it too must be vented? Even if one reactor has an incident, although tested monthly what if there is an abnormal disruption or failure of the vacuum building? There is no backup system, venting would inevitable. And am I correct to understand that the vacuum building is built to have a 2% leakage or venting regardless?

Nevertheless, radioactive emissions are being vented regularly, into the air and the waters of Lake Ontario, part of the plants normal operation. This was never acceptable when the plant was built, but we did not know the danger then and we do now. We were not also aware that the growth of the GTA would eventually surround this nuclear facility, as it does now. Add to this that we can buy power from Quebec at one third the price and we don't, why? It appears that we do this in order to justify Pickering as they are selling power to the U.S. at a profit. Why can't this country sustain itself first and support or neighboring Provinces first? We do this for the sake of business, profits, at a high risk and health concern for our people.

The CNSC, the world, acknowledge the danger of nuclear. Verified by for example the Port Hope low level radioactive waste cleanup. Also around Pickering and Darlington nuclear plants, the distribution of 'potassium' the thyroid gland in case there is an incident. And you must take the potassium pills within 15 to 20 minutes of an incident for any result. But this is false security. If radioactive material is a threat to the thyroid that it must be protected, what about the fact that you have breathed in the material in the first place if your thyroid is endangered? Your lungs are now contaminated, the worst possible method of exposure. Over time as will your body will succumb to this exposure, right down to the bone. Potassium, iodine pills, in my opinion, nothing more than a placebo, intended to calm the public.

And if Pickering has a major failure and the public must take emergency measures, this would become the secondary disaster, the evacuation panic. And that will not be avoided, after Fukushima, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island, panic will occur no matter what is done. This plant at 47 years of age has had its time. OPG and the CNSC are attempting to save the dinosaur of this industry. No one in Pickering or beyond wants to wake up with a potentially belching wholly mammoth in their backyard. Put it to rest, before it belch's. The emergency, should there be one, will result in numerous disasters in the aftermath. The destruction of environment, health, population, provincial function as a whole, and the

people, will never be recovered in the case of an ever possible major incident. How can anyone in authority justify the possible risk, against closing down the Pickering plant?

If a major failure occurred at Pickering the evacuation would cause panic, accidents, shortages in stores, fuel and water, outlying areas would be crowded, with many issues. The shutdown of Highway 401 would crowd back roads not for heavy use. Makes one wonder about the intent of the 407 highway extension, preparing in case? All the business lost, the cost of recovery, the years of recovery, the cost to the province could break the country financially, socially. What about those that are exposed? The medical cost alone would clean out the province, put pressure on federal funds. My medical expense to the provincial taxpayers since exposure, and that will continue to climb, is now at about 2 million dollars. Take one thousand people, and there would be many, many more than that overtime, at one quarter the cost, 500 million dollars. Try 5 thousand people, not that many for the population in that area, 2.5 billion dollars in health costs alone, an estimate only, but more than anyone is apparently considering. The risk of relicensing this plant, increases with time and is not at all worth the risk of potential cost to human health and any suffering. This is not considered, only operating within the regulations seems to matter. Regulations that we have witnessed to be flexible in the face of industry needs.

Recently the CNSC had decided that radionuclides are not Chemicals of Mutual Concern, (CMC) in the Great Lakes! Based on the fact, that apparently all is known, but is it safe? Absolutely not! And radionuclides are airborne. Tritium for example, a main emission, a half life of 12.3 years, 10 half lives, it stays around for some time. It is also known to cause genetic mutations, cancer, birth defects in lab animals, we are all animals of nature...in my case, I am a lab animal, since exposure. And the Pickering residents are exposed to tritium among other radionuclides, regularly.

Considering a 10 license renewal for Pickering, is the last thing that an old facility should get, more like a shortened period would be in proper order if at all. Especially in light of ongoing new ideas and information in many fields. The idea of a 10 year license is only meant to silence the growing opposition to nuclear, in hopes that a break in the public ability to speak to the CNSC, that they will soon just give up. This 10 year license that was applied to Cameco in Port Hope was not well publicized prior to the last hearing there. Recently on a social network many were surprised and not pleased that they lost their voice the CNSC for ten years. In ten years, this Board will be gone, retired, at the cottage, Port Hope and Darlington if allowed to continue operation, will still have issues unresolved. A ten year license appears to be normal pursuit of the industry lately in Canada and the CNSC is too willing to accommodate. Many would hope that this 10 year license request is considered most strongly against renewal in the case of the Pickering facility by the CNSC. In all honesty, I believe that the CNSC, the Board has already decided to approve the 10 year license. Every hearing it appears that the industry gets what it wants.

Nuclear information in Canada is restrained from the media, good or bad. In the United States information is far more available. Following nuclear globally for years it is apparent that there are many reactor issues from unexpected shutdowns, radioactive water leaks, airborne releases, breakdowns almost daily. In Canada, we are expected to believe that nothing ever happens and the situation is

mostly unknown to the public. The CNSC's main offices existing in Ottawa do not help. The CNSC needs to be in the heart of the nuclear 'country', to get a feel of the community, with a place for answers, local hearings, all.

All things nuclear in Canada appear unbalanced, often out of proportion, low profile to the community...accepting all the positive social programs supported by the CNSC and industry. As example, small companies get fines for infractions, big industry can work illegally with U236, spent reactor fuel, found in my body and the CNSC takes no action. Just as when I explained about a replaced hydrochloric acid tank, not sealed properly, at Port Granby leaking for over a week into the air. Cameco, responded, stated that it could only have been for a day, this was not the truth, was accepted by the CNSC Board. The tank should never have been left leaking at all. Did you think that I came to the hearing to lie to the CNSC? It was very insulting, but also very telling at the same time. I have also reviewed transcripts of hearings with parts of my statements missing, accidental, otherwise?

Regarding public health issues and concerns, I ask your patience as this area relates to my experiences in Port Hope since exposure. This will not be presented orally, but will reflect on some other thoughts to be presented at the Pickering hearing, I will keep focus on the hearing subject of Pickering. This portion is for the CNSC Board Members.

As mentioned I am a disabled, former nuclear energy worker. I have asked in writing to speak to the CNSC Board and members in a letter of March 2017. I was prepared to open up to some very personal facts, situations that have come about since my exposure, very unique and concerning, possible helpful from a perspective the CNSC does not have. The letter was never even answered. Not a reply from this Board. Also in the past I have even gone to CNSC 'Whistleblowers', no reply. I should not be surprised, as the following will explain.

And again, the following will not be presented as part of the Pickering oral presentation. The CNSC should have been aware of what I have needed to explain long ago, and understand the cause, the reaction, why, and the problematic existence left to one person. The wrong direction of action in the case of a nuclear incident. Profoundly aware of my health, the risks, future dangers and concerns for my future, facing a proposed 10 year license, I understand that this may be the last time that I can address the CNSC. This is about history and the CNSC's need to finally know, some of what I wanted to meet the CNSC about. As noted in the letter to the CNSC Board and never replied too.

In early 1995 I was assaulted at the Port Hope plant that I worked at, Zircotec at the time, now Cameco, and I reported this to the local police. An investigation started, was interfered with, stopped without reason and when I protested, I was warned off by the Chief of Police. Told to basically watch myself. My 'foreman' warned me that in his words, because I had the police involved, that "We can fix it so that can never get another job in Northumberland County". This is the power and authority that this industry wrongfully poses as I expect that it overpowers politicians and the CNSC often. I had injuries that required eventual surgery, continued with trouble, caused serious emotional symptoms, and I would lose my job over the injuries. Shortly after this assault I started to show symptoms, I thought was

some sort of exposure and in a meeting reported to my employer and union. It was discovered later, that my exposure, was also an assault that took place some weeks earlier, by the same individual. Over the years, many in town have been found to be aware of this fact, and I had suspected, until I was outright told what was done to me by a local citizen. And it all fit the nature of the injuries, among other facts that came to surface over time.

In 2012 Cameco's acting Operations Manager had a private meeting with me. At that meeting he revealed, confirmed, that he was aware that my inhalation of uranium was not accidental, it was an intentional and criminal act. Given the fact that I have near lost my life to this exposure, it would be attempted murder. I warned that his knowledge of this without reporting it to the police was in itself criminal, and that he should confer with legal counsel if in doubt. This man, that I liked, was transferred out of the country within weeks, silently, no notice just gone. I reported to police what he had told me, the officer, the same officer, now a Sergeant that dealt with the first assault, said that he would do nothing, not one note was taken. In fact later under the Freedom of Information Act on my police records, the only way to access the many incidents that would occur, I found most all of the information blacked out. There were no notes on my reports, only false complaints on me by the man that assaulted me.

The Steelworkers Union would discontinue my membership. Although disabled since the initial assault, eventually fully disabled, my membership should have stayed intact, under union rules. The Union President of Canada, Local President and the Union Health Officer have all refused to answer a letter of long ago. And sadly out of all the union and company politics, covering and dodging the truth for the sake of company image, an act of company spite over a comment around my exposure, had another man was transferred to another job. A job they knew that he feared for the possible risks, dangerous work, he later died as a result of that transfer. My feeling on this, are of guilt and some responsibility that no one else understands.

Locally no longer accepted because I was vocal about my assault and exposure, things got much worse. The Mayor at the time found excuse to have me banished from Municipal Properties, including a farmers market, public washroom, could not speak to Municipal staff and could only attend Council meetings and must leave immediately after. This has stood in place for many years and still does. Upon asking the local police if this could be done, I was warned away again, as the local police are Municipal staff! Presently for our safety, if my family or I are in need of the police in that region we will not use our last name in an emergency or otherwise. I have been threatened, had property and vehicle damage, garbage dumped on our property, followed out of Port Hope then a deliberate attempt was made to drive me off the road, ignored or even refused service at local businesses, and often treated very harshly by local people. And then there is my family and all that they have gone through. Because of all this we had to leave the community, sell the home that I built for my family. Suffer the financial losses and then the burden with that situation.

The WSIB, Workers Safety and Insurance Board, presently a 17 year battle for this exposure and I find that the claim is only allowed for my lungs. I have skin, blood, bone, cataracts, organ damage, multiple surgical procedures, on medication to keep me alive - for life, psychological distress... WSIB insists now that all must be separately claimed! There is something very wrong in and about this. Don't expect that I can afford a lawyer. And the company, Cameco, have invested in legal consultants from Saskatchewan to defend against my WSIB claim in Ontario. A claim that if I succeed, will be paid by WSIB, not the company. It will cost the company more in legal fees than I could ever receive from WSIB should I succeed. The company, losing money to deny me a right of fair compensation? For the sake of the industry, company image? Is this okay with the CNSC?

Many lives have been affected negatively by what happened to me, and only because the truth was avoided by the company in the first place. And that has continued since, dragging many along, much wasted time, more damage, more cost. All this over uranium exposure of one victim, of, without a doubt many others as I have come to know and a few or more. Others that see what happens when one speaks out, and therefore, out of fear and condemnation, stay silent. For all involved in denying the truth, it would have been best, proper, to have worked with me, that would have been far more productive for all. And for everyone except me, it would have been long over for the most part.

All has resulted not because of the events, it is a result of the fact that all centers on the nuclear industry and nuclear exposure and the image of the nuclear company, industry as a whole and the CNSC. In Canada the CNSC, industry and politicians all want us to believe that we are all safe, and we are not. In the United States, had I been a nuclear energy worker there, I would have been recognized, compensated and cared for long ago. Below our border it is acknowledged that there are nuclear industry exposure victims. Not in Canada, why? What has happened here is ostracism by the CNSC, by the nuclear industry, for the nuclear industry, to protect the Canadian image of the nuclear industry. If all the safety, protection and fair compensation systems can't handle one exposed nuclear energy worker properly, what are you going to do with thousands of exposure victims if there is an event at any nuclear power plant, especially in the case of Pickering, with the worst of the possible failure possibilities and disaster scenario? In my case the truth would have prevented much of the personal disaster that followed. I hope that you are seeing this picture?

Continuing with the Pickering statement. All this has led to many other findings and considerations that I should also explain. Some of this I have repeatedly attempted to explain to the Port Hope Area Initiative, to include the Canadian Nuclear Labs, the Community Liaison Group together. The PHAI representative stated rather insultingly that I basically had no experience from industry and my personal experience with uranium exposure that they didn't already know, I could add nothing. I wanted the attention of more than one individual on the health related subject at hand. The PHAI would only allow me a one on one meeting with their

Health Physics Officer. That would not be appropriate as that intention was to not reveal any concerns that I may have for public safety. Why? This inaction by the PHAI has led me to understand that I must make statements publicly accessible in order to be heard. So with this situation I will explain my final thoughts with my oral presentation. But I will explain in part now.

This is all in the intention of better, proper health testing. Exposure based on cancer rates is the 'end game', too late for the victim. We know of urinalysis testing, in the plant methods are not telling enough. Outside expert urinalysis testing is resisted in Canada. There are many indications that occur long before the known, obvious exposure symptoms come to our attention. And the nature of those symptoms confuses and misleads doctors as to the cause. I have shared with the CNSC many obvious and accepted symptoms that I have and still have, and no one listens, no reaction. This CNSC's epidemiologist, years ago in Ottawa looked at my scared arms, the facial damage is obvious, to no conclusive comment. The first qualified doctor that I saw, upon seeing my scared face and arms, stated in surprise before we even introduced ourselves, "That's secondary to radiation exposure!" Followed by asking what had happened? Refusal, denial to accept is futile by this industry, the CNSC in the face of so much evidence, but it continues. It is interesting to think that only in Canada is it that people don't get exposed to nuclear material, even nuclear energy workers?

One simple method that I will discuss here is the one long considered for Port Hope but can also be applied to Pickering, probably a specific area around the power plant. Also note that Port Hope now has 7 pharmacies for a population of 16,000. That alone is interesting. I live in a population of over 9 thousand, with two pharmacies.

Consider that if a monthly inventory, calculated over 12 months, of medications from all local pharmacies, in a designated local area was taken. Then a study on what these medication are for, what are they treating, could be established. Next consider what number of the population is being treated for 'something' by the pharmacy. Can or are the indications or symptoms found, be what may be expected from nuclear exposure? Or is it some new and related? If a study as simple as this was put into effect, there may be a better indication of the overall health of the public. What illnesses are they suffering from and is there any pattern, and how many suffer from what and is it relevant to the local industry? This method would very inexpensive, none intrusive to the public or individuals. Proper treatment on some of those confusing health issues may be better understood and therefore treated properly. This was a serious problem for diagnoses and proper treatment with my many health issues not known as uranium exposure due to inhalation. But there is a better quick and conclusive method, also simple.

The removal of my original contaminated lungs and the replacement organs brought about some significant changes. These changes explained symptoms that confused doctors. But only because of some very recent findings combined with new, previously unknown medical knowledge regarding lungs. Separately the information did not explain much initially. However findings from Fukushima before and after studies in another area again brought some very simple exposure testing thoughts to mind. This would appropriate public testing, workers also. It could reveal a map giving proof for or against local public exposure.

I must state this would be a very good idea for Port Hope with all the years of controversy, and maybe the only way for the stigma attached to that town to be sorted and accepted with no more controversy, or at least less. Or let all continue and when the PHAI is complete the health stigma will stay, forevermore considering the nuclear dump site. I will present this in more detail orally.

The next consideration is about nuclear energy workers at all levels. With testing efforts, briefly touched on above, that I will discuss at the hearing, early indications of worker exposure or poor health as result of exposure could be revealed quicker, more conclusively. Enabling preventative measures for that worker, medical treatment if necessary, or just moving to a safer work area, new job, whatever. Further to this all nuclear energy workers should be given special exception in light of the danger involved in their work. Just as firemen have protection, compensation if certain symptoms appear, related to the danger of their work. No less consideration should be given to nuclear energy workers. This is rare and potentially dangerous employment that should be recognized as such.

Given all the above statement, nuclear has hardly been the worth for me. I now accept what I must live with. I don't like it, it is difficult, I will remain ill, and I certainly don't want to see any like me in our future, but there will be. I am most fortunate to be able to write an intervention, my exposure should have ended my life a few times over and long ago. So what good can come out of this? That will remain with authority, leaders, the CNSC, the industry. I felt that this effort, this explanation of the past, is a must for me at this time. Maybe some good will come of it for the sake of others, I know that my fight is never going to be over.

And all of this tells me that Pickering is too large of a risk to continue when none of us, the population, can be financially insured for a nuclear incident, nor are we assured that one will not occur. And with time the risk will increase with age. Consider that nothing lasts forever, nothing. Not me, not you, the members of this Board, nor our highways, buildings and our power plants. What will last forever? A nuclear accident. The total destruction of a large area,

central too Ontario's business, population, will leave a huge area no longer inhabitable. The water no good, the soil and food contaminated, wildlife contaminated, this will last forever, never to be the same again, nor will anything alive be the same, plant or animal. The destruction absolute to a completely changed environment.

A negative thought, yes. But also, sadly, due to all explained above, the history – not all revealed here – and the past performance and attitude from the CNSC, I feel that all that I have brought along with many other in the past to the CNSC, is falling on deaf ears and you are only going through the process to get to a decision already made on Pickering. I feel also that the medical information and thoughts on public testing, special worker consideration for this industry will not be considered with any seriousness. So I will hope that you listen to and accept what I have said and will present at the hearing, and possibly change some of the negative issues and avoid past mistakes.

Regardless, the CNSC needs to heavily consider the needs, costs and risks of OPG continuing to operating the Pickering Nuclear Power Plant. And realize that this is not a good hand to be playing, a poor gamble, losing bet, that in my past I have either played very wrong or wrong has played me well. We, all, cannot let this ever happen again and especially to a larger number of women, men and children just living their everyday life and work, trusting others for their safety...just as I was. Please no more mistakes.

Dan Rudka