



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Submission from
Linda Gasser**

**Mémoire de
Linda Gasser**

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

May 7, 2018.

C/O Louise Levert
Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

I request the CNSC DENY OPG's request for a license extension for the following reasons:

1. I live in Whitby, sandwiched between TWO nuclear generating stations. Having participated in various CNSC hearings since 2012, I have seen no indication that the major parties involved i.e. neither OPG, Durham Region nor the Province of Ontario, would be adequately prepared to deal with a serious nuclear emergency requiring evacuation. Where would a million plus people go and how would they get there and that includes evacuating people without access to a private vehicle?
2. Pickering is the 4th (1971) oldest and 5th largest NGS in North America.
3. Being long past design life its continued operation poses an unacceptably high risk to neighbouring communities, including Toronto, AND to all communities relying on Lake Ontario for drinking water and to agricultural operations anywhere, especially within Durham Region where agriculture is a major industry, that could be impacted by plumes of radiation.
4. Pickering is an extremely high cost operation producing power that is not needed and won't be needed for the period to 2024.
5. Ontario has a surplus of power that they routinely must offload below cost.
6. There is no need for high cost power to be produced by a risky plant well beyond its design life in a heavily populated area.
7. Not even the CNSC would approve a license for a nuclear plant so close to such large populations and for the same reason should DENY an extension to Pickering beyond 2018 .
8. OPG has misled the CNSC and the public by stating in past hearings that they would CLOSE Pickering by 2020
9. OPG now claim they want to operate until 2024 . Why would anybody believe OPG's latest promise if they broke the earlier one? OPG wants those high paid jobs to continue for as long as possible –a few will benefit at great risk and cost to the many. OPG must develop a transition plan for its workers.

10. OPG's shareholder, the Province of Ontario, has the largest sub-sovereign debt obligations and has extremely limited capacity to address the risks related to OPG's nuclear operations.
11. Ontario's recent PNERP update shows there are many loose ends, with funding NOT committed to directly impacted municipalities, who would have to bring their local nuclear emergency plans into conformance with PNERP. See Durham Region Council motion at: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2018-04-04-0900-Committee-of-the-Whole-Meeting/COW%20Minutes-04042018.pdf>
12. Evacuation in the vicinity of Pickering would be beyond challenging and would likely extend over many days –not hours just trying to get people out within the 20 km zone. OFMEM's Dave Nodwell addressed Durham Region council on March 21st and indicated that evacuation studies have yet to be updated. See Durham Region March 21, 2018 council minutes at: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2018-03-21-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/Regional%20Council%20Minutes%2003212018.pdf>
13. OPG has not distributed KI pills within a 50 km zone as have other nuclear jurisdictions e.g. Switzerland, knowing since the Fukushima accident that impacts could range far beyond the 10km zone where they have been ordered to distribute KI pills.
14. Having heard OPG's Chief nuclear officer Glenn Jager address Durham council April 11th, I have even less confidence in OPG's ability to respond to, or contain, a serious nuclear emergency never mind a Fukushima scale accident. Mr. Jager appeared unprepared to respond to basic council questions and appeared very confident that CNSC would grant the license, possibly due to the fact that the CNSC has not denied license requests in the past. See Durham Region April 11.18 minutes at: <https://calendar.durham.ca/meetings/Detail/2018-04-11-0930-Regional-Council-Meeting/Regional%20Council%20Minutes%2004112018.pdf>
15. CNSC is holding this hearing for the Pickering hearing in Courtice, in a location not easily accessible by transit and at a time of year likely to be very busy and leading up to a long weekend. Holding the hearings at this time, so far from directly impacted stakeholders makes the CNSC appear out of touch and unconcerned about ease of public access to their hearings.

In closing, I ask that you DENY OPG's license application to operate Pickering NGS beyond August 2018. We in Durham Region have borne this unacceptable risk long enough.

Yours truly,

Linda Gasser