



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Submission from
Amir Ayazi**

**Mémoire de
Amir Ayazi**

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/o Louise Levert
Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Sent via: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

May 4th

Dear Commissioners,

Extremely concerning to me is the wanton disregard of public safety caused by the continual operation of the Pickering nuclear plant. Over and over I have heard that Pickering nuclear is safe. That all changed in the wake of Fukushima. The shocking and devastating accident that happened there all too painfully brought the consciousness of the inherent danger of nuclear power rushing back into my mind.

Nevertheless, I drank the Kool-Aid. I believed the explanation that Pickering was immune to a Fukushima style accident because we do not have tsunamis so the circumstances are different. This fallacious argument appealed to me because it allowed me to ignore the danger at my doorstep for another couple of years. The reality is that the circumstances are not so different. Pickering is as susceptible to a natural disaster as the one that afflicted Fukushima.

This morning, at 07:58, there was an 2.0 magnitude earthquake on Lake Ontario.¹ This time it may have been a small earthquake, however, it was only one of many that have happened within a 100km radius of Pickering this month. These types of occurrences are only going to get worse as climate change continues. In the event of a major earthquake how confident can OPG really be that their precautions will stand up?

Here is wikipedia's description of the effects of major earthquakes:

“Major damage to buildings, structures likely to be destroyed. Will cause moderate to heavy damage to sturdy or earthquake-resistant buildings. Damaging in large areas. Felt in extremely large regions”.

“At or near total destruction – severe damage or collapse to all buildings. Heavy damage and shaking extends to distant locations. Permanent changes in ground topography.”

What would happen to Pickering in the case that an earthquake like the ones described occurred?

¹ Natural Resources Canada, Earthquakes Canada. “Canada - Earthquakes of the Last 30 Days.” *Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Earthquakes Canada*, 4 May 2018, www.seismescanada.rncan.gc.ca/recent/maps-cartes/index-en.php.

I am sure that OPG has many smart people working hard to ensure that Pickering is as safe as can be. Yet, even with these bright minds at work, the risk simply does not merit the reward. First, the risk can never be completely ameliorated; and second, what is a few thousand jobs, a few extra terawatt hours, or a few extra *insert your perceived benefit here* compared to the potential of a doomsday-esque scenario afflicting Toronto?

It is my sincerest hope that my fears become yours and you decide against extending Pickering's operating license. We must make the hard decision to give up the short-term benefits of continuing to operate Pickering and err on the side of safety.

Thank you for your time and care,

Amir Ayazi

P.s. I would like to come and present this letter at the hearing in June.