



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Kate Haines**

**Mémoire de
Kate Haines**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
Toronto and Peterborough Facilities**

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
installations de Toronto et Peterborough**

Application for the renewal of the licence for
Toronto and Peterborough facilities

Demande de renouvellement du permis pour les
installations de Toronto et Peterborough

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

March 2 to 6, 2020

Du 2 au 6 mars 2020

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To the CNSC expressing concerns about the application for renewal of the BWXT license – ‘No Pelletting in Peterborough’

My Family has lived within two miles of GE/BWXT for 40 years; in the last 20 years we have lived within two blocks of the property of concern. I have walked around the GE/BWXT for many years. In the last few weeks I have increased my walking in the area, looking at the homes and imagining the lives of the people in those homes.

I worked as a Registered Nurse in the community doing home visits for twenty years. During this time, among many other nursing activities, I provided support for clients on chemotherapy and palliative care. Most memorably, and most specific to GE was treatment and support for clients with pleural mesothelioma.

In this neighbourhood we are now being provided with assistance for the removal of asbestos from our homes. It has become a known fact that GE workers brought this material home not only on their clothing but as a ‘freebie’ to help insulate their homes. My neighbour two homes closer to the site is going through this process right now. This has involved not only removing her family and her tenants from their homes for an unspecified period of time and caused disturbance in their everyday lives but as my neighbour says post abatement “my house is a disaster needing repairs everywhere”.

The relevance and irony of this is that we know the health hazards of asbestos and there is evidence to support the many illnesses that our local factory contributed to. Lives have been lost, and now there is an attempt to somewhat rectify and pacify by offering removal of this toxic material. I am asking why there is the possibility that we in Peterborough may be subjected to another and perhaps more dangerous toxin.

One of my other roles in the nursing agency was to sit on the Occupational Health Team. I cannot begin to express the frustration we as nurses felt as we attempted to have access to materials to make our everyday work life safe. From my perspective as well as that of many on the nursing team, occupational health and safety was mostly directed at those in management positions and office staff, not those of us who travelled many kilometers daily dealing with innumerable situations that had potential and remedial health hazards. Office workers (lovely people everyone and equally deserving) had their chairs checked for safety. We in the field struggled for over three years to get safety needles to avoid needle stick injuries and their subsequent health hazards. So as a neighbour, wife, mother and grandmother I take issue with the lack of concern I find in the documents I have reviewed about the BWXT renewal and possibility for uranium pellet production in Peterborough for the residents of this community. Asbestos caused irreparable damage to workers and families; the current abatement process is a wee bandaid to make us feel safer. Uranium dust cannot be removed from the human body – think of the hundreds of children in close proximity to the BWXT plant at Prince of Wales School, not to mention the individuals and families who live within the ‘two mile safety’ radius. We who live in this neighbourhood do not sit in the offices of executives, we work and play in our homes, our gardens; we walk the streets, we send our children to the local school. Is this to become a risky place to have a normal life?

Does uranium dust affect soil quality? Many of us in the neighbourhood have done what we have been asked to do by different levels of government. We garden. We compost not only to provide nutrients to our gardens but also to keep excess garbage from the landfills. We diligently work on

bringing insect and bird life back to support pollinators. We work on protecting tree canopies to provide habitats for creatures of all sorts – and to help keep this earth cool in the summer. I find it difficult to understand just how the possibility of having uranium will not affect the quality of the food we grow and the air we breathe. This distresses me as I know it does many of my neighbours – we are trying to support the environment.

I would ask that until there has been an environmental study done on areas where pelleting has taken place over a statistically relevant period of time that the BWXT application for renewal be limited to three years and that during this period there is further research into the health hazards pelleting could bring to any community, not just the one in which we live.

Thank-you for your attention to these concerns.

Kate Haines
Peterborough