



**Written submission from  
Joshua Benjamin Marston**

**Mémoire de  
Joshua Benjamin Marston**

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**

*This page was intentionally  
left blank*

*Cette page a été intentionnellement  
laissée en blanc*

Hello,

My name is Josh Marston and I'm a resident and property owner of Peterborough, Ontario. I want to submit this intervention in regards to BWXT's application for a license extension for 10 years and to expand that license to allow pelleting operations.

I am strongly opposed to both proposals, please find my reasoning below.

### **Wellbeing of neighborhood children**

My cousins currently live directly across the street (on Wolf Street) from the old GE plant where BWXT is currently operating. They have a young child and are planning on having more soon. I am already extremely concerned for their well being living next to the old GE plant and I am very alarmed BWXT is planning on ramping up their own operations.

For some background, this old GE plant has already had an extensive history of chemical contamination that has not been addressed:

<https://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/7531084-future-uses-of-general-electric-site-may-be-limited-due-to-chemical-contamination/>

The known contaminants include PCBs which are now actively being removed from consumer products due to their cancer risk.

Young children and infants already face an increased risk when exposed to these dangerous chemicals. The GE plant is next to a residential neighborhood so not only are my cousin's children at risk but so is the entire neighborhood. Not only that, the GE plant itself is less than 100 meters away from an elementary school! A single incident, no matter how small, would expose hundreds of children to dangerous radiation, chemicals, or both.

Why should BWXT be allowed to increase both the dangerous chemical and radioactive emissions when so many small children are nearby when the previous contaminants haven't been cleaned up?

### **Concern for neighborhood safety re: flood risk**

Peterborough floods, a lot. It has been flooding regularly for years and it is only getting worse:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5199234/flood-risk-rising-peterborough-region/>  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/4778059/peterborough-flood-watch/>  
<https://kawarthanow.com/2017/05/02/flood-watches-ontonabee-lake-ontario/>

Knowing that our floods will only get worse as our climate heats up, I would like satisfactory answers to the following questions:

1. What sort of protections does BWXT have in place in case of a flood?
2. How is the Beryllium stored?
3. How are the pellets stored?
4. If there is a flood what will flow out into our watersheds?
5. Can the berms constructed at the plant realistically hold all of the water from the increase in flooding?

Any of the chemicals or radioactive materials BWXT uses would devastate the environment and our communities. Even a small risk of this happening is unacceptable.

### **Property values as a homeowner in Peterborough**

Finally, I want to know who will compensate me when my property value plummets due to an 'accident' at BWXT. People are not perfect. Procedures fail. It is reasonable to acknowledge an accident is possible. The risk and consequences of an exposure in this city are too high. Price dives on homes near nuclear facilities when an accident happens are well known:

<http://blogs.reuters.com/reuters-wealth/2011/03/18/what-happens-to-home-values-if-you-live-near-a-nuclear-reactor/>

Not only do prices plummet, they don't come back to their pre accident levels. I am heavily invested in Peterborough, my life savings currently reside here. I do not want anything, acts of god or man, to take away my life's work.

The answer is that no one will compensate me. What will happen is that there will be a devastating accident which endangers hundreds of children and adults. It will headline every single newspaper in the country and dominate social media while it's happening. And every single person that sees the story will say "That's terrible."

And then "I'm **never** moving to Peterborough".

### **Summary**

To summarize, I strongly oppose BWXT to be allowed to start pelleting in Peterborough and I am strongly opposed to its license being extended by 10 years. I already am very concerned by the contamination that occurred at the GE plant before BWXT moved in. Nothing that BWXT has said or done has convinced me that they are ready or able to deal with a major chemical or radioactive spill.

I request that the CNSC deny both the license expansion and extension. The GE plant in Peterborough is too close to our downtown and way too close to our children for it to be worth the risk.

Sincerely,

Josh Marston