



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Kaia Martin**

**Mémoire de
Kaia Martin**

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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laissée en blanc*

January 25, 2020

Senior Tribunal Officer
Secretariat, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Sent by email to cncs.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: BWXT Licence Renewal (Hearing Ref. 2020 - H - 01)

I would like to let you know my thoughts about the proposal for BWXT to begin using powdered uranium to make pellets. As a 16 year old, I feel my voice is very important to this process.

I live within a 15 minute walk of the BWXT plant. To go from my home to my job, I have to walk right by the plant. As well, I went to Prince of Wales Public School for all ten of my elementary school years. Prince of Wales is located directly across from BWXT. I spend most of my life in the area right around BWXT. I am scared that dangerous things might happen in a plant so close to my home, my neighbours' homes, my old school, and my work. It does not make sense to me that a plant is so close to so many homes and especially to an elementary school.

I don't know all the science - but I know that scientific facts change, especially around health regulations and safety. What was considered safe in my grandparents' time (things like smoking cigarettes or DDT) are now universally understood to be dangerous. It is too big of a risk to allow uranium powder (which could escape from the plant) to possibly land on the ground that is my backyard and the playground for kids at Prince of Wales. I know from experience that kids at that school play outside every day, digging and putting things from the ground into their mouths. This makes it even more dangerous for these kids to be spending 10 years (like I did) across the street from a factory, particularly one that wants to make things with uranium powder.

I am so young, which means I will hopefully enjoy hopefully a long and healthy life. The current students at Prince of Wales and my neighbours kids have so much of their lives ahead of them. I am scared because I know that the problems caused by radiation sometimes don't show up for many years. This would make it difficult for my peers and me to hold BWXT accountable if we had serious health problems connected to radioactivity from the uranium powder. I have learned about the "precautionary principle" in my environmental science class, and I think it should be used here. We shouldn't assume a substance is safe until it is *proven* to be safe over multiple long term studies. Don't use uranium powder in my neighbourhood because it is not 100% proven to be safe.

I am 16 years old and I have come to this hearing because I am lucky to have learned about what is happening in my neighbourhood. I am also fortunate to have parents who can assist me with the structural and bureaucratic parts of this process. Without their guidance, there is no way I would be able to understand this process and let my voice be heard. The process is confusing and the information that is available is very difficult to read. We – the youth of our community – were not asked for our input in a way that made it easy for us to contribute our opinions. We are the future of this community and I am angry that we were not included. Youth voices need to be heard, so I hope you are listening well enough to make the right decision: no pelleting in Peterborough.

Here is what I would like to happen:

1. There should not be any nuclear plants in a residential neighbourhood. This is ridiculous. We would not put a car factory or a plastic factory in the middle of a suburb. This is the same issue.
2. If the CNSC decides (wrongly, in my opinion) to allow BWXT to stay in Peterborough, they should at the very least not allow them to make this change to their license. BWXT should not be allowed to work with uranium powder. It is too great a risk for youth – and for all of us in our community.
3. Be more transparent with what is happening in my community with BWXT in a way that makes it easier for everyone -- including marginalized people and youth

-- to add their voices, not just the people who are familiar with the bureaucratic process

Thank you for your time. Please make the right decision for generations to come. Uranium pelleting does not belong in my playground or my backyard.

Thank you,

Kaia Martin