



**Written submission from
Catherine Gillespie**

**Mémoire de
Catherine Gillespie**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de la

**New Brunswick Power Corporation,
Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station**

**Société d'Énergie du Nouveau-Brunswick,
centrale nucléaire de Point Lepreau**

Application for the renewal of NB Power's
licence for the Point Lepreau Nuclear
Generating Station

Demande de renouvellement du permis
d'Énergie NB pour la centrale nucléaire de
Point Lepreau

**Commission Public Hearing
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2**

May 11 and 12, 2022

11 et 12 mai 2022

From: Catherine Gillespie
Sent: March 22, 2022 11:47 AM
To: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca
Subject: Intervention PLNGS Hearing Ref. 2022-H-02

Please consider this email my written intervention to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, regarding the licence renewal of the NB Power Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station.

I am an older person whose experience and judgement cannot be contributed ever again if the next hearing is in 2047. I am also a parent and grandparent concerned about the future of my children and grandchildren and leaving them with legacy radioactive waste.

What concerns me is that a lengthy renewal at a time when there are so many uncertainties that could affect the station's safety, reliability and financial viability, would show a flagrant disregard for the public interest. It is critical that there be regular, timely opportunities to input the evolving needs and concerns of upcoming generations in New Brunswick. NB Power's request to renew the licence of PLNGS for 25 years would effectively prevent any public input during the remaining life of the station and means that we will have no chance to have our say again until 2047! This is totally unacceptable.

I am also concerned that there is no proven-safe option for permanent disposal of the radioactive waste that will continue to add up for another 25 years, if the requested renewal period is approved. Further, the proposal to transport all this additional waste for thousands of miles to a deep geologic repository in Ontario, multiplies the risk of serious accidents resulting in radio-active release, having potential impacts on human health and the environment.

The decision that you make now will also affect the marine environment immediately around the plant, which has abundant species of fish and many commercially significant species like cod, lobster, scallops and dulse. In addition to the marine mammals like whales, porpoises, dolphins and seals that frequent the Bay of Fundy, colonial waterbirds also use the area during seasonal migrations.

The Bay of Fundy is home to a number of federally protected species under the Species at Risk Act, including the north Atlantic right whale, blue whale and fin whale. Given the globally recognized significance and biodiversity of this region, I am concerned about the long-term environmental effects of the plant, potential accidents and its eventual decommissioning on the Bay of Fundy. Furthermore recently, military attacks have been initiated on a nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, including a hostile takeover of the Chernobyl nuclear plant, and the use of explosives. There are many catastrophic associated risks. Russia is a nuclear power and recently threatened NATO allies with consequences like the world has never seen. Terror attacks such as 9-11 have taken place close to home on the Eastern Seaboard.

In conclusion the CNSC must require an emergency response plan in the event of a military or terrorist attack on the Point Lepreau Nuclear plant. The CNSC must require emergency response and environmental monitoring measures be in place which are

specific to the non-human biota of the Bay of Fundy. The CNSC must not grant a licence until it is demonstrated that the Bay of Fundy region is protected from radionuclide emissions at the ecosystem level and that it will be protected in the event of an accident. The CNSC must not renew the operating licence for Point Lepreau power station for the requested 25 years. Instead, the CNSC should continue to consider 5-year relicensing periods, and work toward decommissioning.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email

Thank you,

Catherine Gillespie