



**Oral presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Written submission from  
Ron Mawhinney**

**Mémoire de  
Ron Mawhinney**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de la

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

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

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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**

**Ron Mawhinney**  
Saint John, NB

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March 22, 2022

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Registrar-Secretariat  
280 Slater Street,  
P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5S9  
**Email:** [interventions@cnsccnsc.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccnsc.gc.ca)

**SUBJECT:** Request to intervene with the following written submission on May 11-12, 2022, at the public hearing in Saint John, New Brunswick, on the renewal of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station next five-year operating licence.

Dear Registrar-Secretariat:

My name is Ron Mawhinney, and I am a lifetime resident of Coastal Southwestern New Brunswick, born on the Point Lepreau Peninsula and a lifetime close neighbour to the Generating Station. I would like to appear before the commission on either of the public hearing dates to make an oral presentation in English. My intervention will include a Power Point presentation photos to better explain key points in my oral presentation and I will speak to the following topics:

1. The Environment (the Station and the Fishing Industry)
2. Safety and Security
3. Community Liaison

### **1. The Environment (the Station and the “Bay of Fundy” Fishing Industry)**

Most of my life, the Bay of Fundy and a Fishing Industry has been my workplace. Approximately 75% of the area bordering the Station is the “Bay of Fundy”- the Commercial Fishing Industries’ workplace, so we are always concerned environmentally about what is happening here, the water quality in the bay, the condition of our shoreline beaches and what happens on the land next to the Bay.

Over many years, through strict conservation and regulated protection laws of a multi-species fishery, the Bay of Fundy has been very sustainable. Since the first regulated fishery in this area around the 1880s until present, the quality of the bay still exists. For approximately the last 47 years since start of construction, the nuclear Station has been an important partner and a very responsible steward in maintaining the quality of the bay for the future. The primary fishery in this area “Atlantic hard-shelled lobster” are shipped to just about every corner of the world.

Through catch traceability programs at the Federal level, foreign buyers and consumers are constantly checking us on our harvesting practices, the health of our product and the quality of the environment we fish in. A few years ago, the quality and health of lobster catch was at its best in recent years. And the reproductive signs for the future stock were very good.

In recent years, a large part of the Bay of Fundy just to the west of Point Lepreau has been undergoing a lot of work on a developing new fishery, ocean quahogs or mahogany hard-shelled clams. This project is jointly partnered between “Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Local Fishing Industry. At present, things are looking good to get this project to the final stage of a regulated fishery.

This clam is a siphon feeder just below the ocean floor, and weekly lab testing on its condition and health have been great. As a representative of the fishers involved, I had the opportunity to show some sample clams to one of the largest clam processors in the Eastern Seaboard in Maryland USA. Their Lab Expert told me it was one of the healthiest and cleanest clams he has worked with. He further explained, that to see these results the area where it was harvested in in great shape. This fishery is well-established in neighbouring State of Maine (Beals Island Area), but it is totally new in the Bay of Fundy. All of what I have just stated, recognize that the Bay on all sides of Point Lepreau is being well looked after. Thanks to the committed high environmental standards of the Nuclear Station and the Fishing Industry.

Station staff at all levels come to our local wharves regularly always interested in how our season is progressing, to get the latest news, and before they leave, asking if there anything we can do to help. You are left with a good feeling of a trusted partner.

## **2. Safety and Security**

Through the years, I have attended many meetings at the Station and seen firsthand a commitment to Workplace safety and Public Safety in local communities. They have a well-trained onsite Emergency Response Team, many hours operating without a lost-time accident and a high regard for on-site nuclear safety and used fuel storage which is very comforting to all who live in the surrounding communities.

On the security side since 9/11 the area surrounding the Station is much more aware of an increased security presence in the area. The Bay of Fundy is a busy waterway, large super tankers and cargo ships daily. The fishing fleet is always aware of any movement in the Bay and the solid relationship between the nuclear Station security department and the fishing fleet is a huge benefit to the whole area. The fishing fleet equipped with the latest in-marine electronic technology, can act as the extra eyes and ears on the water.

The cooperation between the Station security staff and the fishing fleet is being steadily improved on by meet and greet sessions at the local wharves between vessels captains, their crew and security staff. The fishers are proud to be contributing to the Station and their community.

### **3. Community Liaison**

I have had the opportunity during the past 35 years to attend many community liaison meetings, both on and off site. To me what first comes to mind is how transparent the nuclear Station and its staff are in providing timely and upfront reporting to the liaison committee and the public. There is a well-structured community liaison committee that has been in place for years, representing all of the people in the surrounding area. Local fire departments, school districts, area wardens, RCMP, the commercial fishery and local community leaders are involved.

The sharing of information between the community and the Station is first rate. They get totally involved in community events and involve us in a lot of exercises at the Station. Projects at the Station that may involve heavy movement by road or by water, they will always ask for our input. If it relates to the bay, we are only too glad to offer our knowledge, with the reassuring comfort that they do listen.

For the past few years in November, PLGS community liaison members and Senior Plant personnel go down to the neighbourhood Dipper Harbour wharf to see the lobster fishers before they set off on their first day of the fall/winter lobster season. The friends and neighbors enjoy a hot cup of coffee together as the boats prepare to head out. It is our responsibility to be a good neighbour, strong environmental steward and a trusted community partner. The community surrounding Point Lepreau is a tremendous strength for the Station. PLNGS is incredibly fortunate and grateful to have strong community partnerships with the fishing community. Their continued support helps our employees generate safe, clean electricity at Point Lepreau that benefits everyone.

Over the past few years, PLNGS has been supporting the Fundy North Fishermen's Association with their large ghost gear retrieval program in the Bay of Fundy. The ghost gear is retrieved using the expert skills of fishers with grapnels that they designed specifically for this work, which are operated from their fishing vessels. This is part of the long-standing partnership PLNGS has with the Fundy North Fishermen

#### **Closing remarks**

It is reassuring to me, and by most all in the surrounding communities, that the "teamwork approach and operating mission" at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Station is to provide cost-effective, safe and reliable green energy to New Brunswickers for years to come.

In closing, I would like to express my full support for NB Power on the application for the next twenty-five years operating license at the Point Lepreau Nuclear Station.

Thank you, to you Mr. Chair and your Commission for coming to Saint John for this hearing and the exceptional role that you play in keeping Canada's Nuclear Industry safe and allowing me the opportunity to present.

Ron Mawhinney