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Oral presentation

Written submission from Evelyn Gigantes

In the Matter of the

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Applicability of the Darlington New Nuclear Project environmental assessment and plant parameter envelope to selected reactor technology

Commission Public Hearing

January 2024

Exposé oral

Mémoire d' Evelyn Gigantes

À l'égard d'

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Applicabilité de l'évaluation environnementale et de l'enveloppe des paramètres de la centrale à la technologie de réacteur sélectionnée pour le projet de nouvelle centrale nucléaire de Darlington

Audience publique de la Commission

Janvier 2024

From: Evelyn Gigantes
Sent: November 19, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN)
Subject: Submission Concerning the Proposed Development of BWRX-300 reactors at the Darlington Site

Submitted November 19,2023 by Evelyn Gigantes

I am submitting my response to the proposed development by Ontario Power Generation of 4 BWRX-300 reactors on the existing site of the Darlington CANDU nuclear reactors.

Apparently this project has been given a CNSC license to " Prepare the Site" based on the CNSC's decision that OPG has met the recommendations of the 2011 Environmental Assessment Report by the Joint Review Panel. However nowhere is evidence available that the recommendations of the JRP have been addressed by OPG, or required by the CNSC.

It is critical that the many environmental concerns raised by the JRP in 2011 – everything from the existing geographic and soil structure of the site, the possible air and water contaminants, the surrounding housing, noise, and potential shoreline alteration, must be addressed by OPG, and approved by the CNSC, before OPG is permitted to prepare the Darlington site for additional reactors. The same is true of recommendations by the JRP concerning a decommissioning financial guarantee which should include the cost of rehabilitating the site if the project does not proceed beyond site preparation.

If the CNSC has, in fact, required OPG to meet these recommendations, the material associated with that requirement should be made easily available to outside organizations and individuals who wish to take part in public discussion concerning these matters.

Now to the question of whether it is appropriate to propose the siting of up to four untested reactors next to the 4 existing CANDUs at Darlington, and their stored nuclear waste.

No BWRX-300 reactors are operating anywhere in the world. The proposed design and operation of a BWRX-300 is entirely different from the CANDU design and involves a structure and a method of operating which is, in large part, below ground level. Again the many issues

of the quality of the soil and rock structures and how the physical and operating structures of 4 new BRWX-300 reactors might affect, or be affected by, the issues raised by the JRP recommendations concerning the physical attributes of the Darlington site, need to be openly addressed by OPG and considered publically by the CNSC.

This is the very least that is required before the CNSC begins to examine whether it might permit OPG to begin building even one untested BRWX-300 SMR at the Darlington location.