

2014 JAN 10 AM 8:21

TU 06374
PICA 13-9514

January 31, 2014

Mr. M. Dallaire, Director General
Regulatory Policy Directorate
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
KIP 589

CNSC CCSN



4331819

1.01.02

FILE DOSSIER	1-8-8-0
REFERRED TO REFÉRÉ À	Dallaire, M.

Dear Mr. Dallaire:

Subject: New Brunswick Power Comments on the CNSC *Stakeholder Workshop Report on Establishing Release Limits - Discussion Paper DIS-12-02*

The purpose of this letter is to provide New Brunswick Power (NBP) comments on the *CNSC Stakeholder Workshop Report on Establishing Release Limits*.

NBP has previously provided input to comments [1, 2] to CNSC staff concerning Discussion Paper DIS-12-02 [3] on the staff's proposals for a process to establish release limits and action levels at nuclear facilities. We appreciate the present opportunity to provide further comments in order to assist the CNSC in developing an effective and appropriate path forward for regulating releases from nuclear facilities.

NBP considers *Stakeholder Workshop Report on Establishing Release Limits* to be an accurate summary of the discussion. However, we note that it does not provide a discussion of how this information is to be used, or what the next steps in the process will be. NBP recommends that CNSC staff provide details of how it intends to incorporate previous feedback [1, 2] and to consult on any future documents before they become formally developed and issued.

Additionally we wish to reiterate key items that we believe need to be taken into account if any changes are made to the current framework of limiting releases.

NBP remains of the view that release limits must be risk based and be supported by scientific evidence to protect human health and the environment. Given that releases from nuclear facilities are already subject to an existing and effective regulatory framework, any release limits set by the CNSC should, to the extent possible, be based on existing federal and provincial regulations. For clarity and ease of understanding, the

..12

frameworks for limits for nuclear substances and hazardous substances need to be documented separately. Perhaps in future they could be combined, but not at this stage. We also suggest that limits for nuclear substance releases continue to conform to the internationally established dose limit of 1 mSv/y and that limits for hazardous substance releases align with existing federal and provincial regulation.

Performance of Canadian nuclear facilities demonstrates that the current framework for controlling releases and dose to the public is effective. The use of technology-based criteria to set release limits lower than already existing regulations, or lower than levels necessary to protect human health or the environment, is unnecessary and therefore unjustified.

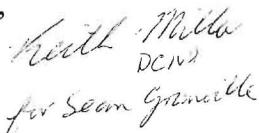
NBP disagrees with the CNSC's concerns relating to the gap between existing release limits and actual effluent levels. In our view, a nuclear facility operating well below regulatory limits correctly informs the public that nuclear facilities are operating safely. Existing risk-based limits ensure the safety of the public, workers and the environment, while the extensive ALARA/pollution prevention programs of our members ensure that all processes are well controlled. If release limits are reduced without a scientific basis for doing so, the burden for reporting will be increased on NBP without any real gain in safety.

NBP is also concerned that statistically-based action levels will increase reporting requirements and send an incorrect message that current performance under the existing regulatory regime has not been adequately protective of the environment, workers and the public.

However, NBP supports having a standard for setting consistent and transparent action levels across the industry, and suggests that this be completed collaboratively through the Canadian Standards Association multi-stakeholder standards development process.

NBP appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this report and is prepared to clarify our comments and concerns. If you require additional information, please contact Joe McCulley, Health Physicist, at 506-458-4401 or JMcCulley@nbpower.com.

Sincerely,



Sean Granville
Site Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer

cc. Ben Poulet, Pierre Belanger, Lisa Love-Tedjoutomo, Rachel Lane (CNSC - Ottawa), consultation@cnsccsn.gc.ca
CNSC Site Office
Al MacDonald, Tony Munn, Jennifer Allen, Cris Nicolau, Claire Harris (NBP)

References:

- [1] H. Kleb, Letter to M. Dallaire, *Re: Feedback on the Comments on Discussion Paper DIS-12-02: Process for Establishing Release Limits and Action Levels at Nuclear Facilities*, 2012 September 21.
- [2] P. Poruks, Letter to M. Dallaire, *Canadian Nuclear Association Participation at June 18 CNSC Workshop on Release Limits*, 2013 July 18.
- [3] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, *Process for Establishing Release Limits and Action Levels at Nuclear Facilities*, Discussion Paper DIS-12-02.