



**Written submission from
Ann Truyens**

**Mémoire de
Ann Truyens**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station**

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
centrale nucléaire de Pickering**

Request for a ten-year renewal of its Nuclear
Power Reactor Operating Licence for the
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Demande de renouvellement, pour une période
de dix ans, de son permis d'exploitation d'un
réacteur nucléaire de puissance à la centrale
nucléaire de Pickering

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

**Audience publique de la Commission –
Partie 2**

June 2018

Juin 2018

May 7, 2018

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
c/o Louise Levert
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Email'd to: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

Re: Hearing Number Ref 2018-H-03 - Expired Pickering Nuclear Reactors

Dear Members of the CNSC,

Please reject the recent request by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to further extend the operation of expired reactors at the Pickering nuclear station. It is not sensible to continue to operate this facility. It is not a financially sound decision. It is an environmental hazard and is socially unacceptable.

There is no reason to continue to operate the Pickering nuclear station. Other than, of course, to sustain OPG's lucrative program – one that benefits only a few, at a high cost to the public.

In 2013, OPG requested approval from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to continue operation of the Pickering nuclear station for five years, with a closure date of 2020. At this public hearing, OPG said that Pickering would be shut down by 2020.

Now OPG is back requesting the CNSC to approve a further expansion for, not five more years but another ten years?! OPG's plans are untrustworthy and brazen in the face of public participation and concerns.

As a member of the public, I made a presentation to the CNSC at the 2013 hearing, along with other members of the public, and experts in energy and environmental protection. At that time, valid concerns were made to cease operation of the out-of-date nuclear reactors at Pickering. These concerns have only compounded over the years.

The history of catastrophic damage from nuclear accidents, the unnecessary risks nuclear energy poses to human health and the environment, and the serious and growing problem of nuclear waste are all valid reasons for the CNSC to require a shut down plan at the Pickering nuclear station, not further approval to operate that facility.

It is disturbing that OPG is returning, once again, to the CNSC for another approval to extend the end-date of the Pickering nuclear station. Many people have lost confidence in the CNSC's ability to protect the best interests of the public.

The CNSC has been a biased system - acting as both judge and jury. It has not been open or transparent. It has not been objective. I wonder if the CNSC has ever denied a request by OPG?

The CNSC is inviting public participation, yet the location of the hearings is not suited to accommodate easy public access, time restrictions on presentations limit serious discussion of complex issues, and discrediting of experts and participants, by the CNSC, is unprofessional and undesirable. It is evident from previous hearings that public participation does little more than feed into justifying the existence of the CNSC, as OPG applications are rubber stamped.

High-paid CNSC members, closely aligned with OPG, advance the nuclear agenda, which secures their future employment. The CNSC has no mandate to consider financial costs or alternative energy options. The CNSC ensures its own existence, supporting 'make-work projects' that favour the nuclear industry, where cronyism and nepotism run rampant.

One can only hope that new CNSC members will recognize the absurdity of OPG's request and that a new CNSC strategy will be adopted, and a new President appointed, so the Pickering debate, and the nuclear station itself, can be put to rest.

Aging infrastructures are expensive and dangerous. For example, the recent decision to increase "acceptable" Tritium levels in water seems to coincide with aging Candu reactors, increased release of Tritium and levels in the atmosphere.

The nuclear agenda is not in the best financial interests of the public. A recent report by the Energy Board indicated a surplus of energy, resulting in costly energy exports. Electricity costs continue to climb, including the outrageous on-going costs of OPG. People are fed up. Ontario cannot afford to finance obscene wages, benefit packages, and huge pensions of OPG bureaucrats, let alone the multi-billion-dollar nuclear program, outstanding nuclear debt, and decaying infrastructures like the Pickering facility.

The City of Toronto has expressed serious concerns about operating a nuclear facility within such a highly populated area. Nuclear energy is no longer favourable. People are looking for a future with sustainable, renewable energy. Ontario has an abundance of renewable energy options.

The Pickering nuclear station is not needed anymore. It is time to accelerate a plan to decommission it. Closure strategies should include environmental assessments and public discussion to determine the best steps to restore the site and how to deal with the nuclear waste.

Again, please reject OPG's request to extend the use of nuclear reactors at the Pickering nuclear station.

Thank you,

Ann Truyens