



Oral Presentation

Submission from Rommel Bellosillo

In the Matter of

Ontario Power Generation Inc., Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

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

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

June 2018

Exposé oral

Mémoire de Rommel Bellosillo

À l'égard de

Ontario Power Generation Inc., centrale nucléaire de Pickering

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

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

Juin 2018

c/o Louise Levert
Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5S9

Via Email: cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

May 4, 2018

Subject: Please close Pickering (Ref. 2018-H-03)

Dear Commissioners,

I believe that public safety should always take precedence above anything else. Whether at home, work, school, organization, a city, town or country, we should ensure that people are safe. I know that when CNSC was established in 2000, the mandate it was given was to protect the health and safety of Canadians, as well as our environment. The Government of Canada departments and agencies should also help CNSC fulfill that mandate.

I moved to Toronto six years ago with the hope of building a life here. I was not aware that an aging Pickering nuclear facility is located 30 kilometers away from where I live and where most Torontonians live. And the fact that it is currently operating beyond its designed life, put us all at risk.

Public Safety is the CNSC's and the provincial government's responsibility and I strongly believe that should be enough reason to reject OPG's request to continue operating the Pickering Nuclear Power. It is no longer acceptable to operate a major nuclear station in the GTA. Even international safety guidance says population intensification near nuclear plants should be discouraged. Over a million people currently living just within 20 kilometers of Pickering and in Fukushima nuclear disaster 150,000 people were evacuated within 20 kilometers. I cannot imagine the impact of a major accident happening here.

Another major concern that I have is emergency preparedness. I have learned that our current emergency plan is insufficient. Our government has not shown how to evacuate people living within 20 kilometres of the nuclear power station – or thirty kilometres! Potassium Iodine (KI) pills are only sent out to people living within 10 kilometers of the station, but why not farther? While people within 50 kilometers can order it for free, but how many of us know about it. I've ordered my pills, but there is no information campaign I'm aware of that encourages people in Toronto to order the pills. Outside of Toronto people are informed. Bruce Power ensured all residents were informed of their right to acquire KI potassium iodide pills and that KI pills are even pre-stocked in all schools within 50 km of its nuclear station. CNSC should require OPG to do the same if you approve OPG's licence.

Last year I wrote Toronto's Executive Committee to encourage them to call on the CNSC and the province to strengthen nuclear emergency response. As a Torontonian, I'm happy my City Council has taken a position in favour of world class safety, including expanded delivery of KI pills and awareness campaigns across Toronto. I totally support it since I never received any information on what to do in case of nuclear disaster which again OPG has failed to do. I ask you to listen to Toronto city council.

The Pickering Nuclear Power Station is also located beside Lake Ontario which is Toronto's drinking water source. Any nuclear accident would significantly impact all Torontonians and other communities around it. The fact that it uses the water from the lake as its cooling system changes the ecology and marine life in the lake. It was reported that Pickering killed more fish in 2017 than it did ten years ago. This shows OPG doesn't deserve to keep operating the station.

Lastly, I am deeply concerned about how OPG will manage the nuclear waste that the Pickering nuclear power station has created and will leave after it closes. There should be a way to dismantle and safely store it considering all social and environmental impacts of it. Right now, OPG's plan is to simply close the station and wait for forty years before figuring out how to clean it. I believe, they should do more transparency and consultation on how the station is closed. The CNSC should reject OPG's proposed plan.

Nuclear accidents rarely occur but when it does, it is very catastrophic. There is no going back and no way of fixing the damage that it will create. We should learn from Chernobyl and Fukushima. Those places are still unlivable, and we do not want that to happen to our city. We should not put profits at the expense of our safety and the safety of the people we love. We should not put profits at the expense of environment.

For all these reasons, I am humbly appeal to the CNSC to please be on the right side of the history and reject OPG's requested licence renewal.

I am also interested to make an oral presentation in June. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Yours,

Rommel Bellosillo