Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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Written submission from Inès Marchese

Mémoire de Inès Marchese

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

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

Canada

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Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
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07May2018

Re: Pickering reactors, Durham region, REF: 2018-H-03

Dear / Chère Madame Levert,

Please accept this written submission in response to Ontario Power Generation's request to extend the operation of the Pickering reactors past its design life of 2020.

In light of the continuing efforts of the effects of the disaster at Chernobyl and the ongoing parallel efforts at Fukushima, the era of nuclear energy is in its sunset phase. Just as efforts are made world-wide to transition away from fossil fuels, so too must we embark on the transition away from nuclear energy. The reasons are manifold:

- While the evacuation efforts within a 20km radius of Fukushima nuclear plant were limited to 150,000 people, the effects of radiation extend much farther. If a tragic event occurred at Pickering, the evacuation efforts would involve many *millions* of people. Emergency preparedness at this scale is neither financially feasible nor are there sufficient human resources to implement such measures.

- The production of and storage of radioactive nuclear waste at Pickering pose significant risks. Concrete containment, whether on-site, or off-site in remote communities across the province, is a present-day environmental risk down-loaded to the future generations of our great-grandchildren. That a lethal source of contaminant located near the shores of Lake Ontario, among the largest body of fresh water on the planet, even exists nearby a precious finite resource such as drinking water is a risk too great to shoulder.

Currently, rural areas are subject to both frequent power outages and power surges – and all this poor service at the higher low-density distribution rate. The infrastructure in these communities is crumbling.

A nuclear-free future is an opportunity for economic growth in the province of Ontario particularly the very communities poorly served by hydro. There is a potential unexplored network within the agricultural sector. Bear in mind that many farmers hold off-farm jobs simply to make ends meet. A revamped micro-fit programme for farms of all sizes could provide 50kw+ on every barn roof throughout the province expanding the electrical grid and shoring up rural infrastructure while simultaneously generating much needed supplementary on-farm income.

These proposals are neither lofty nor far-fetched. The University of Ontario Institute for Technology located in Durham region, is heated not with fossil fuels but via district energy from geo-thermal. In a similar vein, Oxford County is future-forward as it is the first municipality in Ontario to commit to a 100% renewable energy target. Other municipalities will follow Oxford County's lead. A rural micro-fit for farmers is a means to enable even small communities to participate in a future powered by renewables.

Thank for the opportunity to voice concerns and propose viable options for the future.

Je vous prie d'agréer mes meilleurs sentiments,

Inès Marchese