



**Written submission from  
Lori Moncada**

**Mémoire de  
Lori Moncada**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

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

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

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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**



## **Request for the Immediate Closure of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station**

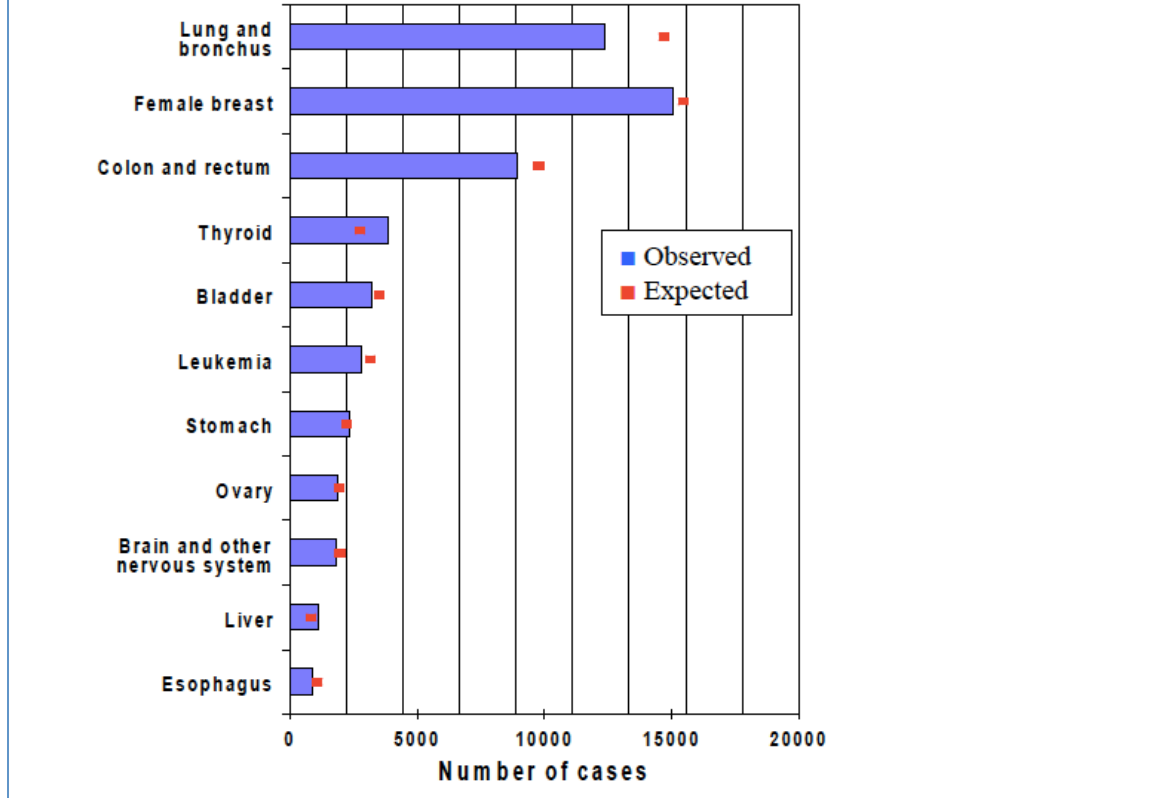
**Tired and shaky, with sweaty palms, the young woman was asked a single question by her oncologist: “Have you ever lived near the Pickering Nuclear Plant?” Shocked, she replied in the affirmative, stating that she had been born and raised within 10km of the plant. “I’m very sorry, but there is no easy way to say this. You have thyroid cancer.”**

At thirty years of age, my childhood friend had to schedule a thyroidectomy. She had to set aside her desire to plan a wedding and start a family with her partner. Her life was put on hold, if not entirely flipped upside down by her diagnosis. Though her surgery was a success, she will forever be on thyroid medication—medication that, truth be told, is less than perfect and has made it difficult for her to conceive a child. Despite the efforts she and her partner have put forth, she remains childless given the difficulties to conceive without a thyroid. If she does conceive, her child’s IQ will be dependent on how stable her doctor is able to keep her thyroid levels during her pregnancy. If her thyroid levels are too low or too high there can be serious consequences: her child’s intellect may be greatly impaired or she may experience a spontaneous abortion.

A few months ago, I was diagnosed with hypothyroidism. Like my friend, I must now seriously consider the pros and cons of getting pregnant. Unlike my friend, however, I blame myself for myself for diagnosis. As an informed adult, I opted to purchase a home within 10km of the Pickering Nuclear Plant without doing much research. Shortly after purchasing, I began to notice a trend—nearly every woman with whom I spoke in the area had, or knew someone who had, thyroid cancer, hypothyroidism or hyperthyroidism. Typically, it was a mother, sister, cousin, or friend who had lived within 10km of the nuclear plant. This prompted me to do some research on the matter. In addition to the countless scientific studies that have established a direct correlation between nuclear radiation and the destruction of the thyroid gland, I came across the “Radiation and Incidence of Cancer Around Ontario Nuclear Power Plants From 1990 to 2008 (The RADICON Study).” Upon reading it, I was truly alarmed by its startling biases, the greatest of which is that it considers the incidences of cancer within a 25km radius of each Ontario Nuclear Plant as a collective group and then compares the data with expected averages (see Figure 1. – Appendix C, [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2013/ccsn-cnsc/CC172-99-2013-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ccsn-cnsc/CC172-99-2013-eng.pdf) ). As Figure 1. indicates, the rates of thyroid cancer within 25km of the Pickering Nuclear Plant between 1990 to 2008 were higher than expected, as compared to the general population. I then conducted further research and found that the distribution of thyroid cancer was concentrated in a particular area. While I am not privy to disclose my sources, I have learned that those who acquired thyroid cancer during this time period almost exclusively lived within 10km of the Pickering Power Plant. The RADICON study is a decade old. I can only imagine how many more unsuspecting citizens have acquired thyroid cancer and/or thyroid disease during this time.

## APPENDIX C: DISEASE SURVEILLANCE RESULTS

**Figure C. 1: Cancer incidence (1990–2008) in people living within a 25-km radius of the Pickering NPP at time of diagnosis (both sexes, all ages combined)**



**Figure 1.**

The Pickering Nuclear Plant has experienced operational accidents that have posed clear health risks to those living in its vicinity. Atop this, studies show that the water and soil within 15km of a nuclear plant is adversely contaminated by the operation of said facility. Countless studies have analyzed the impacts of the byproducts of this industry and have outlined the health risks that are posed to those living near nuclear power plants. Thus, I would like to conclude by posing the following questions:

- Is the Ontario government willing to be held accountable for the lives it will adversely impact via the continued operation of the facility?
- Will the Ontario government earn more money by operating the Pickering Nuclear plant from 2018-2024 than it will lose via the healthcare system while paying for the healthcare costs of those who will be adversely impacted by its operation (i.e. thyroid cancer, thyroid disease, childhood leukemia and the many other cancers related to the operation of a nuclear plant), as well as their offspring who will likely further burden the healthcare system with ailments?

If the answer to the foretasted questions is yes, I will understand if the decision is made to extend the operation of the Pickering Nuclear Plant to 2024. If the answer is no, please close the plat on August 31, 2018 and do all that is in your power to rectify the

environmental and health-related damage the Pickering Nuclear Plant has caused over the last 40 years.

Thank you,

Lori Moncada