



**Written submission from  
Elaine Hughes**

**Mémoire de  
Elaine Hughes**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

**Saskatchewan Research Council,  
SLOWPOKE-2 Reactor**

---

**Saskatchewan Research Council  
Installation nucléaire SLOWPOKE-2**

---

Request by the Saskatchewan Research Council to authorize the decommissioning of the SLOWPOKE-2 reactor

Demande du Saskatchewan Research Council afin d'autoriser le déclassement du réacteur SLOWPOKE-2

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**September 26, 2019**

**Le 26 septembre 2019**

*This page was intentionally  
left blank*

*Cette page a été intentionnellement  
laissée en blanc*

---

**From:** Elaine Hughes  
**Sent:** August 25, 2019 2:07 PM  
**To:** "cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca"  
**Subject:** Hearing on the decommissioning of the SLOWPOKE-2 reactor on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Members

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

To begin, in order to be fair to those who will be most affected by the decision to carry out this process, the hearing planned for September 26, 2019 on the decommissioning of the Slowpoke-2 reactor on the University of Saskatchewan campus should be held in Saskatchewan, specifically, in Saskatoon.

Below, I have set out a short list of my concerns regarding the plans for how this decommissioning will proceed:

- 1) Transporting the high level waste from the site to South Carolina and the intermediate level waste to Chalk River - on public highways, near lakes, rivers and other sources of precious drinking water, through towns and villages, past schools, swimming pools and playgrounds, past hospitals, homes and work places – is risky. Should an accident, and subsequent spill of this lethal material occur, the effects would be long-lasting (hundreds of thousands of years for some of the elements in the waste) and devastating.
- 2) Acting as if radioactive water can be 'treated' to be safe enough to be released into the municipal sewage system and dumped into the Saskatchewan River is irresponsible.
- 3) It is equally unconscionable to dump radioactive waste into the City of Saskatoon's landfill.
- 4) Finally, as to burying the reactor on site in concrete where it cannot be monitored, our experience with Chernobyl has shown us that concrete will disintegrate in fewer than 25 years. Some of our brightest and best students attend this University (approximately 25,000 young people). Is even the remotest risk worth it?

In ALL ASPECTS, this is an outrageously dangerous and unacceptable endeavour, and I strongly urge you to reconsider it!

With thanks,

Elaine Hughes