



**Written submission from
John Marris**

**Mémoire de
John Marris**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
Toronto and Peterborough Facilities**

**BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc.,
installations de Toronto et Peterborough**

Application for the renewal of the licence for
Toronto and Peterborough facilities

Demande de renouvellement du permis pour les
installations de Toronto et Peterborough

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

March 2 to 6, 2020

Du 2 au 6 mars 2020

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John Marris

Intervention for BWXT Licence Renewal (Hearing Ref. 2020-H-01)

What is my interest

I live within 500m of the former GE plant and have many friends whose children attend Prince of Wales School. I am a community worker who works with some Peterborough most vulnerable citizens.

Reasons for Our Intervention

The nuclear industry has proved itself an expensive anachronism that has no place in our energy future and the manufacture of its fuel has no place in the middle of a town. While we make the move to more appropriate sources of energy the contamination of the nuclear industry should be concentrated at as few sites as possible, as such the pellets and the fuel rods should be made at our nuclear power stations and not at remote sites and in an urban area.

Microscopic particles of uranium dust released by the process of producing uranium fuel pellets can be limited, but not eliminated. These particles will enter our local environment and cause harm to human and animal life in my community. Uranium dust from BWXT processes will be in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink and swim in. The dust is known to be harmful and potentially deadly, yet the industry that produces it and the regulating body appear to in favour of this work being done in a residential area.

The argument that the area of Peterborough that contains the former GE site is zoned mixed commercial/residential is now argument for allowing a toxic process to continue to take place in what is now fundamentally a residential area. In the 19th century we built factories close to workers with all the consequential health problems. We do not do that now, for good reasons. As such this toxic process should not be allowed to take place in a residential area, within site of an elementary school.

I do not have faith in the nuclear industry or their regulators to protect us. BWXT and the CNSC should not get to decide the level of risk that is acceptable in our community

The history of manufacturing of all kinds including the current process of putting pellets into fuel rods on this site is a history of pollution and subsequent denial. This site should not continue this toxic legacy, but those responsible for its contamination should be charged with its clean up and toxic processing in a residential neighbourhood should come to an end.

According to the Peterborough Examiner, in March of 2018, BWXT announced renewal of a 5 year contract extension for their current operations bundling fuel pellets for nuclear power stations on Lake Ontario. In November of 2018, public relations for the corporation announced that they would not expand operations onto the rest of the GE site that is now unoccupied. Now they are seeking a 10 year license to expand into production of fuel pellets, which will require an extensive increase in infrastructure on site. Why should we trust them when they have already changed their plans? Why should the needs of this corporation be placed over our need for the health of our local environment and children?

While industry on the GE site has brought valuable jobs to Peterborough over the years, it has left behind a legacy of sickness and unemployment. GE, at its peak in the 1960s employed 6,000+ people. The loss of those jobs over the decades has left behind entrenched poverty in our town. The corporation created a 21 acre toxic waste zone and a surrounding neighbourhood with stagnant property values at a time when they are rising around the city. Hundreds of workers for GE have filed WSIB claims stating that their cancer was caused by workplace toxins. The City of Peterborough, in the form of its infrastructure for social welfare, the health-care system, school system, and child-welfare systems clean up the messes left behind by the practices of large corporations. BWXT will be no different.

We already have health studies showing that cancer rates in Peterborough city and county are well above provincial rates. Our collective health has already been compromised by the toxic material left behind by GE. Pelleting by BWXT will increase the toxic burden. Do we really want to invite more uncaring corporations into our city to increase carcinogens in our environment?

Conclusion

There is no logical case for bringing further uranium processes in the form of pellet manufacturing to Peterborough beyond BWXT's profit motives. These should not come above the health of the community.

Most of the world is recognising the need to move away from this dirty form of energy that has a legacy that we can barely imagine. Canada should be doing the same.

As part of a transition away from nuclear energy, its processes and risks should be limited to as few sites as possible. Move the processing and manufacturing of nuclear fuel to the power stations.

I call on CNSC to reject this application for uranium pellet manufacturing at BWXT's Peterborough site.