



**Written submission from
Colin Purcell**

**Mémoire de
Colin Purcell**

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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Submission

The concept of BWXT running a uranium pellet manufacturing facility here in Peterborough is shocking, especially given the lessons we SHOULD have learned following the completely avoidable tragedy at General Electric (GE).

It's understood that we're not talking about asbestos anymore, and that the toxins involved in killing so many GE employees may be different from the ones about to poison our current residents and the surrounding environment. It's understood that the science and technology that failed to protect all those trusting GE workers and their families is different from what's supposed to protect Peterborough this time around.

What remains the same is the inevitability of the science being incomplete, and the health assurances being wrong. What remains the same is business owners and stakeholders pushing a situation onto a community for the sake of convenience and profit. Only this time around there's a massive dose of willful ignorance of history included, and a city that's so desperate for new jobs that it's largely willing to blindly trust BWXT and the CNSC to protect its health interests.

1. The CNSC and the human beings who are its decision-makers have a duty to reflect on history. They have a duty to consider the potential of a whole new generation of workers and their families suffering and dying because the current science, studies, safeguards and protections end up being incomplete, insufficient or completely wrong.
2. The CNSC and its decision-makers, who are at least partly responsible for the future health of BWXT employees and the surrounding community, need to explore other options for manufacturing uranium pellets away from densely populated residential neighbourhoods and nearby elementary schools in Peterborough.
3. The CNSC must prioritize the long-term health of BWXT workers and their families above all else, even if the general population is unaware or willfully blind to the hazards of exposure. The CNSC must prioritize human beings ahead of the nuclear industry.

No one is disputing the need to explore nuclear options and work toward cleaner energy. But just because the former GE facility exists, doesn't mean it should be used in such a capacity. My hope is that the CNSC recalls past errors and misjudgments regarding carcinogens and ends up on the right side of Peterborough history.

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