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Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
James Tuer**

**Mémoire de
James Tuer**

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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laissée en blanc*

January 27, 2020

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Sent by email cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

To whom it may concern,

I wish to submit an intervention to the CNSC regarding the application for license renewal of the BWXT Technologies uranium processing plant at 1025 Lansdowne Ave.

I live one block east of the Lansdowne BWXT plant with my family, and I am not comfortable with the building being granted a license renewal of another 10 years. We were not aware of the function of the facility when we moved to the neighbourhood in 2013, and were alarmed to learn some time later that we were living in close proximity to such large amounts of powdered uranium oxide. I am not against nuclear power generation and have no reason to doubt the skill and professionalism of the people that work at the plant, but it just seems crazy to have this kind of facility in the middle of such a densely populated – and soon to be drastically more populated - part of the city.

My main concerns with the BWXT plant:

- A facility housing powdered uranium dioxide simply should not be located within such a heavily populated area. It has been in the neighbourhood longer than many residents have, but that does not mean it deserves to remain. I'm aware that the danger from uranium dioxide particles escaping from the facility and making it into my body is very low, but living within such close proximity to a building that stores hundreds of tonnes of the stuff obviously creates a much higher risk of breathing it in than if it were to not be there at all. I hate taking a stance that essentially equates to NIMBYism, but this facility should be relocated far away from ANYBODY's backyard.

- As someone who lives a block away, I am upset that I haven't been told of a contingency plan outlining what me and my neighbours should do in a worst-case scenario emergency at the facility, or how we would even be notified of such an emergency. Is there a siren that will go off? I am further bothered to hear that when such concerns have been raised at meetings with the community they were met with responses implying that such emergencies were essentially impossible, that they just won't happen. As if ruling out human error or freak accidents is a reasonable and responsible thing to do. The plant is directly next to train tracks - as safe as that is, nobody can say a derailment is impossible.
- If we have not been told of an emergency plan because such a worst-case scenario wouldn't even allow time for evacuation, then that's all the more reason for it to be FAR away from any area people live.

I have several questions for BWXT and CNSC that have not been answered in previous community meetings that I wish to be addressed at the hearing:

- Why is BWXT able to self-report their own emission levels? Where is the independent third party overseeing these things?
- Have there been any long-term studies looking at cancer rates (or other illnesses related to powdered uranium dioxide) in the neighbourhoods surrounding the plant?
- What is the worst-case scenario? What is the blast-radius if the giant liquid hydrogen tank explodes?
- How will the community be notified in the event of an accident?

I don't feel that the community has been sufficiently notified of this hearing process, of what BWXT does and, above all, what we as community members are to do in the event of a disaster. I am not against the existence of the plant, only it's location; this kind of facility does not belong in a residential area. For these reasons, I feel that their license should not be renewed.

I wish to attend the hearing on March 2-3 and present my concerns to the board orally.

Sincerely,
James Tuer