



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Graham and Rachel Petty**

**Mémoire de
Graham et Rachel Petty**

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*

Rachel and Graham Petty

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

Who we are

We are a married couple with two children, aged 9 and 7 years old, who have lived in our home in Peterborough for 10 years. We plan to stay here to raise our children and live out our lives in this strong and connected community.

Reasons for Our Intervention

- **We reject the toxic burden for our community and world through the production of uranium pellets and the nuclear industry, as a whole.**

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 in amounts that could cause harmful exposure to humans and all other living things in our community.** Uranium dust from BWXT processes will be in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we swim in. It is inevitable. Even if relatively few people are exposed to radioactive uranium dust particles, the consequences for those individuals will be great. Moreover, the particles will accumulate in our environment and could affect our children and grandchildren in ways that we cannot yet foresee. The dust is known to be harmful and potentially deadly, yet the industry that produces it continues to grow and the regulating body continues to allow the presence of radioactive material in our world to increase.

The processes for creating nuclear energy are derived from the same technology that was developed to kill human beings on a mass scale. To us, it is common sense to want to keep it far away from our community and our children. While I have no doubt that I have benefited from nuclear power in many ways in my life, and would guess that I am relying on it as I write this in direct or indirect ways, the does not mean I have to agree with it as a solution to our society's energy needs. History has proven that accidents and natural disasters will occur at nuclear sites, and any living things nearby will be exposed to large amounts of radiation. The waste products from nuclear power generation is a burden we leave for future generations and it only continues to mount up. We do not want our home to be the next place to be poisoned with radioactive materials.

- **We do not have faith in the nuclear industry or their regulators to protect us. BWXT and the CNSC should not get to decide what amount of risk is acceptable to us in our community**

Large corporations like BWXT put their bottom line first, accepting environmental damage and physical harm to humans as a reasonable cost for their profit gain. **However, we do not accept the risk from heightened levels of uranium that BWXT and their regulating body, the CNSC, are willing to expose us to.** It is our children, grandchildren, and great- grandchildren who will be affected and we have a right to reject an industrial process that will do them harm.

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

We feel that preventing heightened levels of uranium in our local environment is the best thing for our community. In order to ensure that there is no increase in our toxic burden, the licence for BWXT to produce uranium pellets should be denied.

BWXT will leave Peterborough if their production proves unprofitable. What will they leave behind? Port Hope will be spending \$1.3 to clean up the toxic mess that was left behind by industrial practices that **were approved by the nuclear regulating commission!** We can advocate for a better future for our children by saying “no” to the ten year license to produce fuel pellets.

While rejecting the BWXT licence to produce uranium pelleting may seem like a small act in pushing back against the nuclear industry, my hope is that, as a community, with support from our municipal government, we can say “no” to a future in which materials known to be toxic and harmful enter our environment. If enough communities were to say “not in my backyard,” or “not in the environment in which my children will raise their children, then the effect of our resistance on the nuclear industry could be widespread.