



**Written submission from
Robert Thompson**

**Mémoire de
Robert Thompson**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de la

**New Brunswick Power Corporation,
Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station**

**Société d'Énergie du Nouveau-Brunswick,
centrale nucléaire de Point Lepreau**

Application for the renewal of NB Power's
licence for the Point Lepreau Nuclear
Generating Station

Demande de renouvellement du permis
d'Énergie NB pour la centrale nucléaire de
Point Lepreau

**Commission Public Hearing
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2**

May 11 and 12, 2022

11 et 12 mai 2022

March 23, 2022

Re. Application from New Brunswick Power to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for renewal of the licence of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station

Dear member of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission,

I am a Radiation Oncology Physician practicing at the Saint John Regional Hospital, Saint John, New Brunswick. My wife, two sons, and I live 60 km away from the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (NGS).

I viewed the Jan 26, 2022 public hearing video on the above application. As detailed in the presentations by Jason Nouwens and Mark Power of NB Power, the Point Lepreau NGS has an excellent safety track record. The presentations by Mr. Power and Mr. Nouwens showed us that all aspects of the NGS, from management, to administration, to day-to-day operations, uphold high standards of safety for staff, members of the public, and the surrounding environment. It was clear that within the NGS, there is a culture of effective collaboration and professionalism.

I have full confidence, as a member of the public and as a physician very familiar with the effects of ionizing radiation on the human body, that the Point Lepreau NGS poses a negligible risk to the health of New Brunswickers from a Radiation Safety perspective. In fact, it is likely that the NGS has resulted in a marked improvement in the health of New Brunswickers by providing high-quality employment to so many individuals, including members of our first nations communities. That is, the NGS has likely helped the people of New Brunswick, both directly and indirectly, by improving the social determinants of health: employment, fair and equitable income, stability of employment, education, etc.

There are several other compelling reasons for this NGS to continue operations. Firstly, it would be wasteful and unnecessary to prematurely decommission this CANDU-6 reactor, which was refurbished in 2012, before the anticipated end of its safe and useful working life. Secondly, premature closure of this NGS will result in a massive increase in greenhouse gas emissions. In 2019/2020, 4,814 GWh, or 36% of all electricity sold to New Brunswickers, was generated at Point Lepreau. In contrast, 2,643 GWh, or 20%, was generated from the combustion of fossil fuels. (<https://www.nbpower.com/en/about-us/our-energy>). The Point Lepreau NGS provides highly reliable, continuous, base-load electricity, in contrast to intermittent generation sources including wind and solar photovoltaic generating stations. If this NGS ceases operations because its CNSC license is not renewed, this baseload generation will undoubtedly be replaced with fossil fuel generation capacity, and/or electricity purchased from adjacent provinces or states. The former solution would cause an unacceptable rise in carbon dioxide emissions, and the latter solution may result in economic harm to the New Brunswick economy and provincial debt.

In conclusion, I strongly recommend, on the basis of a proven safety record and anticipated safe future operations, that the CNSC approve the application for license renewal of the Point Lepreau NGS for another 25 years, or at least 20 years, as it is considering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RT' followed by a stylized flourish.

Robert Thompson