



Oral presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Heather Chase**

**Mémoire de
Heather Chase**

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 25, 2022

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Attention: Commission Registry
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5S9
Email: interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca

SUBJECT: Request to Appear
Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station License Renewal Public Hearing

Dear Madame or Sir,

When Point Lepreau was being built, I was a young student in Charlotte County. Because of the protests and information that was being shared by those against the construction and nuclear power in general, I was not in favour of it being built in my “backyard”.

As I grew a little older, I decided that I needed to better understand the issue so that I was making decisions based on my own information and understanding and with an open mind. I decided to work at PLNGS as a summer student in the public relations department to learn as much as I could about the station, nuclear power and the various safety and environmental processes that were in place. After learning this information, I also sought out other sources, to ensure that I was not just hearing one side of the story.

After researching and answering my own questions, I became a supporter of nuclear power and PLNGS.

In the many years since then, I have kept in touch with the station as someone who lives in the community, as well as professionally.

During the exploration of the development of the Energy Hub, including the proposed Point Lepreau Two, I was hired to manage the Workforce Development program that would develop a talent recruitment and retention program for all the energy projects, as well as to focus on community relations and supports. During that time, I formed relationships with all the key stakeholders for the projects, including the trades unions, AECL, NB Power, WANO, UNB, all three levels of government, the community, etc.

After one and a half years on this project, market conditions changed, and it was decided that not all the projects would move forward so I left that position and returned to provincial work in community economic development.

I share this information with you, not so that you can see my work history, but to help you understand that I have been connected to the nuclear sector, in one way or another for most of my life. I have visited a few other stations, attended WANO conferences, attended academic lectures and have always tried to learn with an open mind. Some of this can be challenging for someone from a non-scientific background, but I always like to keep learning.

I am also an active community volunteer in various poverty, community and environmental NGOs, including the Point Lepreau Community Liaison Committee.

All my work and volunteering has focused on bringing community to the table and creating an environment where community members feel empowered to lead.

As we look forward to the next phase of licensing, I feel that it is very important that we revitalize the Community Relations Committee and find new ways of engaging with our community, including youth. When I look around the table at our meetings, I know that some of us will not be here for the next phase of renewal, so it is very important that we focus on a model to renew community engagement and welcome new voices to the table.

We need to focus on sustainability, relationships and community ownership of the process for community engagement. We are in the process of establishing community led focus groups to ensure that we understand the communities' ever evolving interest so that we can continue to learn and support their needs as they identify new priorities. Some of the ideas discussed to date include:

- Current members will proactively consider who may replace them on the committee from their respective community group/sectors
- Prior to their departure, current members will provide mentorship to incoming members and ensure transfer of institutional knowledge
- We will also identify voices that are not included in the current process to see if and how they would like to be included.

The PLNGS Community Liaison Committee is corner stone of the public engagement program. We need to ensure the committee, and our community, will continue to be actively engaged for the duration of the licence.

I appreciate the opportunity provided by the CNSC to hear from members of the community that live here, where the station is located. I look forward to working with NB Power to ensure that our local voices continue to be heard and included in the next evolution of the Community Liaison Committee.

Regards,



Heather Chase