



**Written submission from
Zachary Simon**

**Mémoire de
Zachary Simon**

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

Zachary Simon
Upper Rexton, NB

March 20, 2022

Commission Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9
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Commission Secretariat:

I am writing today to state my support for the request by New Brunswick Power to renew the operating license for the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station.

My name is Zack Simon, and I am a member of the Elsipogtog First Nation, a Mi'kmaq community northwest of Moncton, New Brunswick. Currently, I am our community's Covid response co-ordinator, interacting with local public health services to protect the health and safety of our community members throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Previously, I represented my community with regards to relations with New Brunswick Power. The purpose of my role was to act as a liaison between our community and the Point Lepreau station, to help increase the level of knowledge of station operations and ensure any questions and concerns of our community were addressed through open lines of communication.

In order to represent the best interests of my community, my role was one of a bridge as opposed to cheerleader. That is, my role was not to promote the station, but instead act as a channel through which information, questions and perspectives could flow respectfully both ways.

I must admit, initially I was skeptical about nuclear power and had some concerns about the impact of the station on our lands and community. However, through my experience I have come to better understand how the station operates and the priority that is placed on protecting the safety of people and the environment. And I now better appreciate the important role the station plays for all of New Brunswick. I would like to share some examples of my experience:

- I visited the station and received an in-depth tour and briefing. I also received the same safety training as all employees. I was impressed to see a cohesive team where safety was a priority for everyone, no matter what job you held. Even for something as simple as holding a handrail on the stairs, we were encouraged to speak up, challenge and coach each other to keep each other safe. To me this demonstrates a strong culture of safety and protection which I believe is extended to all aspects of their operations.
- I appreciated the efforts of the Point Lepreau staff to work with me to develop materials that I could take back to my community, to help explain the technical aspects and promote a stronger understanding of the station operations.

- I witnessed first-hand the respect they have for First Nations culture. As an example, Black Ash is a rare tree with great significance in our culture. Prior to the trimming or removal of trees, the station staff invites us to identify any trees of cultural interest prior to the start of their work, so they may work around them in their maintenance activities. We appreciate their respect of our culture and traditions.

Although my formal role as liaison has ended, I continue to be interested in what's happening at the station and have an open line of communication with staff. I know that if there is something that may be of interest to my community, they will share the information with us. And I also know if I (or anyone in my community) have a question or concern, I can pick up the phone and have a prompt response to any request. And while we may not always agree on all points, I appreciate the respectful communication that continues to be maintained.

I used to think nuclear energy was bad, but now I encourage people (in my community and elsewhere) to understand and consider all parts of the story, the facts, and alternatives, before forming an opinion. The station contributes almost 700 megawatts of clean energy to the New Brunswick electricity grid. If the station were no longer operating, where would that energy come from? The alternatives could be worse. For example, even hydroelectric power has a lot of impact as it is environmentally invasive.

In closing, I support the renewal of the license. I have witnessed the professional, well-trained people who are committed to safely operate the station and appreciate their ongoing commitment to maintain respectful communications with our community members.

Regards,

Zack Simon