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**Oral presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Written submission from the  
Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue  
Department**

**Mémoire du  
Service des pompiers volontaires  
de Musquash**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de la

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

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

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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**



## MUSQUASH FIRE - RESCUE

*Proudly Serving the Communities of*

*Chance Harbour, Dipper Harbour, Lepreau, Little Lepreau, Maces Bay, Musquash & Prince of Wales*

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March 27, 2022

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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Ottawa, ON  
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**Subject: Renewal of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station Operating Licence**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As Fire Chief of the Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department, Musquash, New Brunswick, I am writing to request permission to appear before the Commission to make an oral presentation regarding NB Power's licence renewal of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS). This letter highlights some of the points that I will be discussing during the public hearing on May 11 & 12, 2022.

In addition to being Chief of the Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department, I also wish to speak on behalf of the PLNGS Community Liaison Committee, which I co-chair with Kathleen Duguay, Manager of Community Affairs and Nuclear Public Disclosure Protocol.

I strongly support NB Power's licence renewal for the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station and would like to share with you my experience and the basis of my endorsement.

I will address the following:

- My knowledge of NB Power's commitment to safety;
- My experience working with the men and women of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station in emergency preparedness; and
- My knowledge of NB Power's commitment to community engagement.

First, a bit about our department: The Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department is located

in the Parish of Musquash, which includes the nuclear plant. I have been the Fire Chief for 35 years and recently received recognition from the Canadian government for my long service to fire protection in our community. I have also lived in the Musquash community for more than 50 years and am proud to have raised my family here.

The Musquash Fire-Rescue Department serves seven communities: Prince of Wales, Musquash, Chance Harbour, Dipper Harbour, Maces Bay, Little Lepreau, and Lepreau. Following a review by the regional government, the communities of Pocologan and New River were recently amalgamated into our Parish, now bringing the area we serve to approximately 1,200 dwellings. We have over 65 members who provide volunteer service, all of whom live within the communities. Approximately ten of our members work at Point Lepreau as part of the station's Emergency Response Team (ERT).

The Musquash Department provides fire and rescue services for the area. We also support the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization Warden service by assisting with a demographic survey and the distribution of potassium iodide (KI) pills. Among other initiatives, we have built a database which provides a list of people who require special assistance in our area, to ensure specific attention is provided to those individuals during an emergency.

Over the decades that I have served as Fire Chief for the area, I have observed the communities' bond together as one strong, supportive group, where PLNGS has become the central hub of the communities and enhanced our ability to provide exceptional fire and rescue services for the area. In fact, it is because of this existing collaborative relationship that the recent amalgamation of the two additional communities into our Parish has been a smooth transition. We are well prepared to service the expanded area and our ability to continue providing back-up response for the plant has not been impacted.

### **NB Power's Commitment to Safety**

I commend NB Power for the importance they place on fire safety and fire protection systems. The station has an onsite ERT, backed up by regional fire departments and emergency response plans, including the Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department.

During my 50 years as a community resident and in my professional role, I have worked directly with the men and women at Point Lepreau. I would like to express my appreciation for their experience, knowledge, and professionalism in providing exceptional service when it comes to emergency preparedness. Their commitment to safety is extraordinary.

Through my personal interactions with plant staff and my participation in the firefighting exercises and training drills, I can attest to NB Power's culture of safety, not only when it comes to *fire* safety but in all respects. Their commitment extends to everyone's safety: their employees, visitors, the general public and the surrounding environment.

## **Our partnership with the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station**

I am pleased to say NB Power's commitment to safety is as strong as their commitment to the long-standing partnership between the Point Lepreau plant and the Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department.

Our Musquash firefighters and prevention officers have gained tremendous knowledge and experience through the partnership, training and the prevention and preparedness programs we have built together with Point Lepreau employees. In return, we are able to bring our own experience and knowledge, both of fire protection and of the community, to the PLNGS staff.

Each week a crew from our Fire Department attends a joint training session with station ERT members to build familiarity with emergency response procedures and the plant and overall site. Together, they conduct plant walk-downs so our Musquash Fire Department members are familiar with the location of fire fighting equipment. Almost all of our members are trained in radiation protection (Orange Badge), which means they can access the station in an emergency and seamlessly assist with response.

We have also focused our joint training sessions on specific postulated fire hazard scenarios, where we review the strategy and tactics of how we would support the plant ERT's response to the most potentially hazardous situations that could be encountered. Our Musquash Firefighters are well prepared for any scenario they may encounter when supporting the plant.

Through many years of participating together in training and drills we've learned what works well and everyone knows their role. We are part of a team. This cohesion is crucial for the success of providing fire protection and response to the plant and to the entire community. This is true collaboration, and we are proud that our partnership has been recognized by the World Association of Nuclear Operators as an industry best practice.

Each year, the relationship continues to strengthen with new initiatives and opportunities. I would like to provide a few recent examples.

- When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, we needed to make sure it did not impact the ability for our two organizations to continue supporting each other. The Musquash Fire Department ensured our training continued but took all precautions necessary to minimize the potential for Covid transmission, to ensure plant ERT members remained healthy and safe.
- Point Lepreau ERT and Security staff have helped to respond to a couple of significant vehicle accidents in the community in the past few years. The employees happened to be on their way into and home from the plant at shift change. I was impressed by their professional response and eagerness to help support our Fire and Rescue personnel in any way that was needed. This is a good example of co-operation in action and how the relationship between our members and the plant staff is adding an extra layer of protection and safety for the entire community.

- Recently, the Musquash Fire Department acquired two stand-by generators to support our ability to deploy community warming centres should they be needed. The generators can also be made available to support any potential need at the plant. Also, a new hydrant has been added in the vicinity of a reservoir used by Point Lepreau. Given the reservoir does not freeze, this adds another layer of protection for the community as a source of water that could be used for firefighting purposes.

### **NB Power's Commitment to Community Engagement**

The Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station has been part of our community for decades. The station and employees contribute to our schools, seniors' groups and the local food banks, just to mention a few. The Station is an exemplary neighbour and many of their employees live in, and contribute to, the fabric of our community through volunteerism.

### **The Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station Community Liaison Committee**

At this point in my submission, I would like to comment on my role as co-chair of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station Community Liaison Committee. I have the privilege of working closely with Kathleen Duguay, Manager Community Affairs and Nuclear Regulatory Protocol. She is a valued member of our Committee, who provides leadership and a commitment to information sharing and who is always available to answer questions and meet with us any time. In 2020, Kathleen received a national nuclear industry award recognizing her outstanding contributions to public education and communications about nuclear power. I have no doubt that her commitment to our Community Liaison Committee over the past two decades contributed to her receiving this national recognition.

I also wish to applaud PLNGS staff and leadership team for being available to provide subject matter expertise and updates to our committee. They have demonstrated a deep knowledge for plant operations and openly shares plant status reports with us.

The Committee has been in place for over 25 years and meets on a regular basis or as needed. It presently includes members that represent a cross-section of station and community interests, including business, environment, health, municipal government, safety, emergency preparedness, station neighbours, and the general public.

The purpose of the Committee is to create:

- A formal mechanism through which to interact and receive information, feedback or concerns from community members relating to activities of the NB Power generating station (or adjacent transmission equipment);
- A means (in addition to emails and web-site information) to inform the community of matters of general interest relating to the station, with particular emphasis on issues relating to health, safety, environment, and emergency preparedness planning; and,
- A mechanism to provide suggestions directly to station management on how to continuously improve the information exchange with the community.

In addition to our regular meetings, communication between the Station and the committee is ongoing in a number of forms including newsletters, media advisories, or just a telephone call when needed, to clarify information or provide an update. Communication works both ways and we have developed a relationship where information is shared openly and transparently. Questions are answered and concerns are addressed. This has created confidence and trust between the community and the station.

### **Application for a 25-Year Licence**

We fully support NB Power's request for a 25-year licence. This is longer than previous licences granted to the station and elsewhere in Canada. However, we see no correlation between the duration of the licence and the ongoing, co-operative relationship and frequency of interactions with station staff for either the Musquash Fire Department or the PLNGS Community Liaison Committee.

As described above, we appreciate and value the open communication channels and ongoing engagement we have with station staff and know that Point Lepreau values this as well. In fact, the Community Liaison Committee has just embarked on an initiative to develop a formal succession planning process for Committee membership. Both the Committee and the station want to ensure it remains an active and engaged group, representing all voices of the community including local youth, for the remainder of the station life. We will also ensure additional representation from the two new communities that have been amalgamated with our area. I have full confidence there will be no change in the future to the relationship between the station and both Musquash Fire Department and the Community Liaison Committee and have no issue with a 25-year licence being granted.

In closing, the Community Liaison Committee, and the Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department support NB Power's application to renew the Point Lepreau operating licence. We can confirm NB Power's commitment to operate the station in a safe, reliable and efficient manner and know this commitment is at the heart of their culture. We look forward to continuing our work together in the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Pollock".

Wayne Pollock  
Chief, Musquash Volunteer Fire-Rescue Department  
And PLNGS Community Relations Liaison Co-Chair