



Oral presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Leap4wards**

**Mémoire de
Leap4wards**

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

Filed on February 24, 2022

FROM: Mr. David Thompson, Leap4wards

NB Power should not be granted a 25 year operating Licence for the Point Lepreau Generating Station which they have requested from the Canadian Nuclear Commission, to replace their current 5 year licence which will expire in 2022.

The reason is that there are too many uncertainties and conflicting interests on the horizon. These uncertainties are due to two major issues: (1) Land ownership and Indigenous land claims and (2) Plans for a number of other reactors and spent fuel re-processing.

(1) An Indigenous land claim on the Point Lepreau Generating Station site and surrounding lands has been launched, and the prospect of additional land claims by other First Nations is likely.

(2) Two corporations, ARC and Moltex are separately planning with NB Power to build and operate a number of small Nodular Nuclear Reactors at Point Lepreau, and Moltex is planning to re-process spent fuel at Lepreau on site for the recovery of plutonium to fuel their reactors. Furthermore, NB Power employees have been working on these proposed developments.

With much future uncertainty at the Lepreau Reactor site, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission should only issue an operating licence for a maximum duration of 3 years to replace the current 5 year licence. A 3 year licence would offer an opportunity to respond to any changing circumstances or conditions at the Point Lepreau reactor site and review any new or emerging realities. For over two decades the Point Lepreau Nuclear Station operated on 3 year licences (most of its operating life), until more recently, when licencing terms were expanded to 5 years.

In view of future uncertainty and big changes looming at the Point Lepreau Reactor site, it would be irresponsible to issue an operating licence for 25 years. In applying for a renewed operating licence for the Point Lepreau Generating Station, for 25 years, NB Power has said there are no agreements or certainty that there will be any small modular nuclear reactors built at Point Lepreau.

However, NB Power has stated many times elsewhere that they look forward to SMNRs at Point Lepreau. Furthermore, the Government of New Brunswick, the Federal Government and NB Power have collectively given nearly \$100 million in grants to two companies - ARC and Moltex - to develop SMNRs which the companies say they will build at Point Lepreau. Moltex has said they will re-process spent fuel from the Point Lepreau reactor to extract plutonium for fuel in their SMNRs.

As well, a number of NB Power employees have been working with these companies to develop the SMNRs and on issues of development of fuel for the SMNRs.

David Thompson,

Representative for Leap4wards (Saint John, NB)