



## **Oral presentation**

**Submission from  
Jean Brereton**

In the Matter of the

### **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories**

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Application for the renewal of the Nuclear  
Research and Test Establishment Operating  
Licence for the Chalk River Laboratories

**Commission Public Hearing**

**January 23-25, 2018**

## **Exposé oral**

**Mémoire de  
Jean Brereton**

À l'égard des

### **Les Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens**

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Demande de renouvellement du permis  
d'exploitation d'établissement de recherche  
et d'essais nucléaires pour les Laboratoires  
de Chalk River

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**23-25 janvier 2018**



**From:** [Jean Brereton](#)  
**To:** [Interventions \(CNSC/CCSN\)](#)  
**Subject:** CNSC Attention: Ms. Louise Levert  
**Date:** 11 décembre 2017 20:28:38

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Louise Levert

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

(by email)

December 11, 2017

Dear Ms. Levert

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the decision on relicensing of the Chalk River Laboratories.

As a resident of the Ottawa Valley for more than 45 years, I have long-standing concerns about radioactive releases from the Chalk River Laboratories site, both routine and accidental. I am much more concerned about these things now that a for-profit multinational consortium has taken over the management of the Chalk River Laboratories site. By definition, a for-profit enterprise must be concerned first and foremost with profit and not necessarily the best interests of the community.

Thus, I am very dismayed that you are proposing to increase the length of the license for the Chalk River Laboratories to 10 years. I understand that you are also considering reducing CNSC oversight of this licensee in other ways, such as by reducing reporting requirements and increasing the number of activities that can be undertaken without Commission oversight or approval.

If ever a shorter license period and stricter license conditions were warranted, it should be now. Commissioners, please, we need you now more than ever, to step up and provide strong and stringent oversight at this facility.

We know that radioactive wastes have been accumulating at the Chalk River Laboratories for 70 years. We also know that there are leaking waste management areas on site and that radioactive materials are migrating towards the river. (Ottawa Citizen, December 19, 2011, “A Toxic Legacy”) We need to be assured that these wastes will be properly managed and that the long-lived radioactive materials do not get into the Ottawa River. Given the proposal by the consortium to pile up wastes in a giant mound, less than one kilometer from the Ottawa River, many of us living downstream have no confidence in the consortium’s willingness or ability to keep radioactive materials out of the Ottawa River. So again, please increase the stringency of the licence and reduce the license period to no more than two years.

There have been reports in the media recently and on the licensee’s website about a major new initiative to open up the Chalk River Laboratories to other multinational corporations for the development and testing of small modular reactors. This would create more difficult-to-manage radioactive wastes that we, the taxpayers of Canada, would be responsible for. I believe that no new wastes should be created at the Chalk River Laboratories until the wastes currently on site have been cleaned up and are in a secure storage condition, preferably underground in a shallow cavern away from the river and other water bodies, packaged, labeled and retrievable in case problems arise. I would like to suggest that you make this a

condition of the new license.

Please consider this my request to make an oral presentation at the hearing in order to highlight these concerns and I look forward to answering your questions and discussing these critically important issues with you.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Brereton

Golden Lake, Ontario