



**CMD 26-M13.13**

Date: 2026-04-10

**Written Submission from  
Emily Straka**

**Mémoire de  
Emily Straka**

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À l'égard de la

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**Mid-term update from BWXT Nuclear  
Energy Canada Inc. on licensed activities  
at its Toronto and Peterborough facilities**

**Mise à jour de mi-parcours sur les  
activités autorisées de BWXT Nuclear  
Energy Canada Inc. à ses installations de  
Toronto et de Peterborough**

**Commission Meeting**

**Réunion de la Commission**

May 2026

Mai 2026

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**From:** Emily Straka  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 7:01 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Subject:** Intervention regarding BWXT Peterborough as you receive a mid-term update on its licensed activities

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Dear commissioners

This letter is to members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). As you receive a mid-term update from BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada (BWXT NEC) on licensed activities at its Toronto and Peterborough facilities, I urge you to demand more of BWXT Peterborough. I am sure that you need not be reminded of your mandate "to protect the health and safety of Canadians and the environment by regulating the use of nuclear energy and materials in Canada. This includes overseeing the safety and security of nuclear facilities and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements" it is imperative that you.

In making its last decision to allow an expanded Peterborough license, the CNSC ignored the outpouring of stakeholder concern - that increases in radiation exposure to the vulnerable could not be justified. The decision broke fundamental rules of radiation safety that the CNSC is obliged to follow under international treaty. I understand that only one commissioner opposed the approval of expanding the license because "Moving the pelleting operations, adding radiation doses and UO2 air and effluent emissions in a site which has an adjacent vulnerable population, is not acting in an abundance of precaution." Sandor Demeter - CNSC member. The last decision definitely eroded public trust in the commission, particularly because BWXT Peterborough is located in a populated area, even though the Government of Canada website states that the CNSC mandate, vision, mission and values reflect a commitment to nuclear safety, transparency and public trust.

My name is Emily Straka, and I'm sending this intervention as a concerned citizen of Peterborough. Although I do not live in the immediate area I am concerned for the residents that do live there and especially for the vulnerable population of young people who attend Prince of Wales School only 25 metres from the BWXT site at 1160 Monaghan Rd. in Peterborough. Six years ago, I submitted an intervention to the CNSC regarding the licence renewal and expansion to include pelleting at BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada. I was disappointed in the outcome of the last decision and I am concerned that the CNSC is not making responsible decisions that protect all living beings across this city.

I continue to have the following concerns and questions that should be addressed by the CNSC:

- The BWXT site in Peterborough is extremely toxic and there is now discussion about demolition of the buildings on the site and I'm concerned that the demolition won't be done properly and that even more contaminants will be released into the air, water, soil. What is being done to ensure the demolition will be monitored by outside regulators and involve every level of government? In the

past, the CNSC has demonstrated that they haven't been making decisions in the best interest of the public they have been entrusted to protect.

Unfortunately, a ten-year Class IB Nuclear Fuel Facility Licence FFL-3620.00/2030) was issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and effective January 1, 2021. This licence authorizes BWXT NEC to operate and modify its nuclear fuel facility to produce natural and depleted uranium dioxide (UO<sub>2</sub>) pellets and to produce and test fuel bundles in Peterborough at 1160 Monaghan Rd. The facility is additionally authorized to receive, repair, modify and return contaminated equipment from off-site nuclear facilities. Given the location of the Peterborough BWXT site, I'm concerned that contaminated material will be passing through many residential neighbourhoods and will move extremely close to the public school Prince of Wales.

Furthermore, this factory is on the GE Complex lands, which is extremely contaminated. This site, next to a school and in a residential area, is raising concerns about toxic dust ... especially on the school children nearby. There are also plumes of PCB's and TCE's under the factory, including asbestos, lead, other heavy metals, etc.. Even without any productive industry, considerable vinyl chloride, and TCE's are emitted into the air just from airstripping the toxic plumes of trichloroethylene in the ground of the GE Complex Lands.

I urge you to mandate that all levels of government should be involved in monitoring this site and GE / BWXT should be held financially responsible for clean up! Sadly, all of Little Lake going down to Rice Lake is on Canada's federal contaminated sites inventory-- amongst other areas of town.

How do all these toxins interact on a cellular/tissue level? on the immune system? auto-immunity for instance? Would exposure to increased air pollution and water pollution from an added industrial process, the dust from demolitions, etc, be enough to turn on those genes? Pollution affects many systems in the body.

I want to remind the CNSC and BWXT that good neighbours don't make radioactive, heavy metal pellets! The last thing we want to do is compound the pollution problem we already have in downtown Peterborough! It is especially unjust to the innocent children.

How do all the pollutants add to the toxic burden of the community? The scientific consensus is that there is no safe dose of radiation and that the effects of radiation are cumulative throughout a lifetime.

I understand that since the hearings, the CNSC has been censured by the International Atomic Energy Association for not living up to international standards in relation to things like public doses and unfortunately many government safety levels are still too high to ensure public and environmental safety. I urge you not to be complacent in this important issue!

- Do any of the Commissioner have biological expertise? Is anyone a medical doctor, radiologist or professor of public health or is the panel composed of engineers, industry insiders and big business that are only concerned with making money for the company and not concerned for the well being of young children and other residents of the community? Sadly, many former GE employees were also subjected to many hazardous materials and have suffered from a myriad of cancers. Do you want the fate of our children to also suffer the same?

- what is the CNSC doing to ensure that the site is safe? The toxic dust coming from the factory are so small but are being breathed deeply into the lungs where radiation and heavy metal chemical toxicity can harm DNA, cells and sensitive tissues. The damage to cells and tissue once inside the body is more dangerous than previously thought because of the bystander effect and are cumulative

throughout a lifetime. You must protect the innocent children of Prince of Wales school and residents living in the area! Your mandate demands that you demand the strictest guidelines and transparency of the pollution coming out of this site!

CNSC needs to ensure that independent monitoring, especially since BWXT's nuclear fuel processing building is only 25 meters from POW school, is clear, regularly tested and reported.

Unfortunately accidents happen, and it's just a matter of time when that will happen. What is the CNSC doing to ensure that top safety protocols and safety plans are in place for transportation of these materials to and from the site and along the route? Too many "events" have occurred at this site and climate change, with extreme climatic events are affecting us all and requires stricter monitoring and reporting. In 2004, in the big flood, there was 2 inches of water on the floor of building 21. Every time it rains, the water flows off the toxic GE Complex /BWXT land and into Little Lake, and then downstream to other communities where residents swim, fish and take drinking water out of the river.

Can the city handle the increased demand on its water reserves? Can it handle the increased demands on its sewage system?

Powdered uranium is flammable. Is it worth putting children at risk for the convenience of the company? Are fire services prepared? Are parents prepared?

A new heavy industrial processing line in downtown Peterborough, on terribly polluted land next to a school, is not suitable! This site needs to be decommissioned, cleaned up and not expanded!!! The CNSC and all other levels of government should play critical roles in ensuring the careful and safe overseeing of the closing of this location, including the demolitions.

I urge the CNSC to build back public trust by making decisions that will ensure the safety of all living things close to this site.

Sincerely,

Emily Straka