



CMD 26-M13.30

Date: 2026-04-17

**Written Submission from
Janet Harris**

**Mémoire de
Janet Harris**

In the matter of the

À l'égard de la

**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

April 15, 2026

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

[280 Slater Street](#), P.O. Box 1046, Station B

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Re: Intervention for the BWXT Peterborough Midterm Update on licensed activities (Hearing Ref. 2026 - M - 13)

To Whom It May Concern:

Janet Harris requests to intervene in writing at the hearing in the above referenced matter at Peterborough.

Please consider this submission as an Intervention to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) with regards to the midterm update for BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada at the [1160 Monaghan Rd, Peterborough Ontario](#) facility.

It is requested that the CNSC place a hold on set activities related to the 10 year license renewal at BWXT-Peterborough site. These activities shall include: i) limiting the ability of BWXT Peterborough to expand its nuclear pelleting operations and ii) preventing the demolition of buildings at the downtown Peterborough plant - until such a time that the surrounding neighborhood is deemed safe from any negative effects of these activities.

These recommendations are based on past, present and potential risks for human health, the environment and the local economy which directly impact citizens living in downtown and surrounding areas of BWXT - Peterborough.

As a result of significant concerns raised among organizations including the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA)(1), residents of the City of Peterborough (2), and numerous additional references(3), the following issues deem it imperative that the BWXT licence to expand nuclear pelleting operations be placed on hold until such time that health, environmental and socioeconomic risks are minimized. Diligent, ongoing, step by step, effective communication with all stakeholders involved with regards to the licensing operations, nuclear pellet processing and demolition plans at the BWXT Peterborough site is imperative for the safety of all citizens in the surrounding downtown neighbourhood.

Significant concerns are outlined as follows:

#1) Ongoing Health Risks- An elementary school, Prince of Wales Public School, is located directly across the street from the BWXT Peterborough plant. Significant health concerns from former GE Hitachi employees, school employees and residents living near the BWXT plant have been raised with regards to higher than average rates of cancer, respiratory illness and other health concerns(4). In addition, air, water and soil quality in and surrounding the BWXT plant have had and potentially can have an effect on human health.

Schools have been closed due to uranium exposure as recently as 2019 (5). It is unethical to potentially expose surrounding neighborhoods and especially vulnerable population groups such as school children, pregnant women, the elderly and plant workers to unknown and potentially significant negative health risks.

#2) Ongoing Environmental Concerns – Land, including parking areas and empty lots surrounding the BWXT plant have been reported to be contaminated with toxic wastes from the former GE plant. Ground water and soil contamination are ongoing issues of concern. Growing and consuming vegetables in downtown has been questioned in terms of health risks by experts in environmental engineering (6). Emissions of beryllium into the air from BWXT are ongoing and are reported to be increasing with an emissions stack in close proximity to the junior end of an elementary school playground (7). Storage of hydrogen in large tanks as part of the nuclear pelleting process brings concern with regards to the potential explosive impact for the plant and surrounding area.

With the planned demolition of century old buildings on the BWXT Peterborough site, where is the evidence that an adequate, current environmental assessment has been completed and communicated with the citizens of the City of Peterborough? Where is the Emergency Preparedness plan in case of an explosion or leak into the plant and surrounding area of potentially toxic chemicals such as beryllium and uranium?

#3) Ongoing Social-Economic Concerns – There continues to be concerns that the social stigma and negative perceptions associated with BWXTs expansion of its pelleting operations and demolition plans will negatively influence surrounding property values and affect small business in areas near the plant in the downtown core. What about liability insurance for the citizens of Peterborough in case of an accident or negative effects on human health or the environment? Whose responsibility is it to obtain and maintain liability insurance? Why should people living close to nuclear processing plants feel that they need to own Geiger counters? (8)

As a result of these issues and as a resident of the City of Peterborough, parent and cancer survivor, the following recommendations are listed given the concerns for my family (both of our children went to Prince of Wales school for 9 years) and the surrounding community regarding the potential risks associated with the BWXT license.

Recommendations:

1) Given the health and environmental risks for surrounding neighborhoods, ideally close the BWXT Peterborough plant and relocate production in a rural, significantly less populated area, and not in a downtown city neighborhood.

2) At the very least, hold the Peterborough BWXT licence for expansion of its nuclear pelleting operations and hold the plans for demolition of planned buildings. Ethically, this is based on significant concerns of past, present and future health, environmental and socio-economic risks.

3) Conduct a thorough health assessment of past, present and potential human health risks in the City of Peterborough (eg cancer, respiratory illness) with regards to the former GE plant and present and future BWXT operations.

4) Conduct an environmental assessment of past GE and present and future BWXT operations to begin immediately and for completion within 1 year. Include structural, present and future processing and surrounding area in terms of soil, air and water quality.

4) Demand an Emergency preparedness plan by BWXT and the City of Peterborough as soon as possible for completion within 6 months.

5) Monitor future business planning by BWXT. Processing of nuclear pelleting is morally and ethically wrong to be located in an urban area due to potential health, environmental and socioeconomic risks. Allow processing of nuclear pellets in rural or isolated areas only – out of urban, populated areas.

6) Enhance communication strategies with the public and with residents living within the City of Peterborough and especially for those persons living within a 2km radius of the present BWXT plant. The CNSC and BWXT owe the citizens of Peterborough this strategy at the very minimum.

For the health of our citizens and especially those vulnerable populations – including the children of Peterborough - thank you for considering this intervention and these recommendations. We look forward to additional communication and your decision on this very important issue.

Sincerely;

Janet Harris

References

(1)<https://cela.ca/renewables-not-small-modular-nuclear-reactors-are-the-solution-to-climate-change/>

(2)<https://www.nopellets.ca/petition>

(3)<https://www.nopellets.ca/resources>

(4)<https://www.psr.org/blog/resource/webinar-health-risks-of-nuclear-power/>

(5)
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/frantic-parents-fear-kids-after-radioactive-contamination-found-ohio-middle-n1005771>

(6)
<https://www.mscdirect.com/betterMRO/safety/everything-you-need-know-about-osh-a-beryllium-compliance>
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2819790/

(7)<https://www.mscdirect.com/betterMRO/safety/everything-you-need-know-about-osh-a-beryllium-compliance>

(8) <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/nuclear-power-plant-alert-people-miffed-about-mistaken-notification-1.4763763>