



**CMD 26-M13.37**

Date: 2026-04-17

**Written Submission from  
Janice Keil**

**Mémoire de  
Janice Keil**

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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

## CNSC BWXT PETERBOROUGH INTERVENTION

submission date: April 17, 2026

The CNSC is aware of the longstanding scientific research on the dangers of beryllium, an IARC confirmed Group 1 carcinogen emitted by the nuclear processing activities at the BWXT site (formerly GE) in Peterborough, Ontario. The CNSC is also aware that beryllium is one of the most toxic substances on earth. No level of beryllium is safe. Even at very low levels, beryllium accumulates in the body and can cause disease.

The CNSC cannot pass the buck and shift responsibility onto other players as it often attempts to do: BWXT is the only known industrial user of beryllium in Peterborough. **The recent CNSC report demonstrates that beryllium is still a problem at BWXT.**

The question is simple: When there is an inquest in two decades' time investigating a berylliosis cancer cluster in Peterborough, will the CNSC attempt to cover up their knowledge of the danger or admit their role in criminal negligence? This intervention is necessary as a witness testimony to the role CNSC has played and continues to play in Peterborough being the community in Ontario with the highest number of cancer clusters.

CARN supports healthy and safe communities and opposes nuclear processor BWXT bringing yet more dangerous industrial contaminants to Peterborough. The BWXT stack on Monaghan Road emits beryllium 50 metres from 600 children at Prince of Wales Elementary School. Children are doubly at risk from inhaling airborne beryllium and also from contact through soil in the schoolyard, in the school community garden, in their own backyards and in local parks.

Synopsis of CNSC report:

- CNSC report acknowledges that there is beryllium at all 16 sample ID locations around the city
- CNSC results at those locations indicate a clear upward trend of beryllium in the soil between 2014 and 2020
- CNSC does not provide any explanation for the significant increase in beryllium levels in 2019
- CNSC did not do any of their own airborne beryllium sampling from the stacks on Monaghan Rd and instead used BWXT data
- CNSC does not acknowledge that beryllium can cause cancer or other illnesses

CNSC's conclusions are based on changing methodologies. There has never been a consistent, continuous and comprehensive monitoring program for beryllium. CNSC data has been disclosed infrequently and in an inaccessible manner. Ten years of inadequate CNSC oversight cannot be corrected by one poorly executed sampling. The CNSC President did not follow through on a promise to include local independent scientific participation in their July 2020 testing.

BWXT is presently having difficulty containing their beryllium emissions. CARN is not confident that BWXT will manage uranium dioxide 'dust' safely if they are allowed by CNSC to manufacture nuclear pellets. Any BWXT pelleting will involve processing an additional 75 tons of uranium dioxide powder a month. That's a lot of cumulative emissions on an already toxic legacy site.

The question remains for CNSC: cover up or criminal charges? You choose but we as the public know.

Janice Keil, OCT