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N.B. legislature creates committee to oversee Point Lepreau refurbishment

FREDERICTON – A special committee of the New Brunswick legislature has been formed to oversee the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear generating station.

The committee is a long-standing wish of Premier David Alward going back to his days as Opposition leader.

It will comprise members of the legislature and report on the evolution of the much-delayed project.

Alward criticized the former Liberal government for not being transparent enough on Point Lepreau while also conceding a committee would not have prevented delays in the project.

The Liberals said such a group wasn't necessary since the province isn't responsible for the refurbishment and is seeking reparations from the federal government.

Government house leader Paul Robichaud tabled the creation of the new committee Wednesday, saying it will enhance the flow of information from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., which is managing the refurbishment.

The work is now expected to be completed by fall 2012 — three years overdue and about \$1 billion over its original budget.