

46 Reed Avenue, No.1  
St-Andrews, N.B. E5P 1A1

Friday, January 7 2011

Alan Graham  
26 Centennial Ave West  
Rexton, N.B. E4W 1X8

Dear Commissioner Graham:

Since you are, in effect, New Brunswick's representative on the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), our coalition of New Brunswick and Atlantic Canadian organizations request that you take action to aggressively and immediately advocate for our region's interests, ensuring that the upcoming CNSC hearing on NB Power's request to extend the license of the Pt. Lepreau reactor be held in New Brunswick, and not in Ottawa.

We are also request that in the interest of fairness you advocate for your home province and region to assure that groups and individuals wishing to make their submissions at this hearing orally will be able to do so. As you may be aware, presently CNSC's plan is to allow only the applicant (NB Power) to make its submission orally, with all other interested parties limited to making written submissions only.

As you know, CNSC is charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the health, safety and future well-being of the people of New Brunswick and the environment of our province and the Atlantic region where Pt. Lepreau is located. The Lepreau license extension hearing, presently scheduled for 19 January 2011, is required as part of CNSC's duty to exercise this responsibility.

Holding this hearing in Ottawa would essentially eliminate any meaningful opportunity for non-profit public interest groups, volunteer organizations, small municipalities and ordinary New Brunswick citizens to attend or participate directly in the hearing due to the time that would be required and the costs of travel and accomodation. An Ottawa venue for this hearing will in effect limit meaningful participation to the proponent (NB Power) and affiliated government agencies and interested corporations.

Limiting oral presentations to that of the proponent, NB Power also arbitrarily restricts the scope and range of the hearing and raises very serious questions about whether it will be conducted fairly.

Our coalition of organizations views the proposed Ottawa venue for this hearing, and the limitation of oral testimony to the proponent's presentation as serious violations of democratic process and principles.

We understand that the Lepreau reactor's current license does not expire until June 2011, so there is ample time for you to reschedule the public hearing on license extension so that it can be held here in the region that will be most directly affected by the Commission's decision(s) in this matter.

Please respond to this request as soon as possible and inform us of what actions you are taking to ensure that New Brunswickers and others in our region will have the opportunity to participate directly and meaningfully in this hearing.

Thank you for your prompt and urgent attention to this request.

Respectfully,  
Fundy Baykeeper  
CCNB (Conservation Council)  
Sierra Club of Canada--Atlantic Chapter  
PANE (for a new perspective on Energy)  
International Institute of Concern for Public Health (IICPH)  
Concerned Citizens of St-John  
Passamaquoddy First Nation