



ONTARIO
CLEAN AIR
ALLIANCE

April 7, 2021

By Email: Rumina.Velshi@canada.ca

Ms. Rumina Velshi
President
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Ms. Velshi:

On [March 30, 2021](#) we requested that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) impose an interim moratorium on the operation of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (PNGS) until Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has demonstrated at a public hearing that the risk to public safety from the continued operation of the PNGS is acceptable.

On March 31, 2021 we received a letter from Mr. Marc Leblanc, Secretary of the CNSC rejecting our request since our letter did “not raise any new evidence.”

With respect, we find Mr. Leblanc’s response to be disingenuous since we never suggested that we were bringing “new evidence” to your attention. On the contrary, the actual reasons for our request are as follows:

1. OPG and the CNSC have no reliable evidence (i.e., no direct data) to demonstrate that the PNGS’s pressure tubes are still fit for service.
2. To obtain reliable data to determine if the PNGS’s pressure tubes are still fit for service the PNGS must be temporarily shut down to permit OPG to scrape new samples from its pressure tubes.
3. In a worst-case scenario, a ruptured pressure tube could lead to a series of “cascading failures not unlike what happened at Fukushima”.

We believe it is reckless to continue operating this station without direct evidence about the integrity of its pressure tube system.

Given the fact that the PNGS is operating well past its design life and that no other CANDU station of this vintage has ever continued to operate without a full pressure tube replacement, we believe the only responsible action is to correct this vital information deficiency by shutting down its reactors so that OPG can scrape tiny samples from the pressure tubes to obtain accurate data for an evidence-based scientific safety analysis.

If you do not agree, please explain what information you have that allows you to reliably assure the millions of people living around this station that the PNGS pressure tubes are fit for service.

Yours truly,



Jack Gibbons
Chair



Angela Bischoff
Director