

CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS COUNCIL



&

**COMMUNICATION, ENERGY, & PAPERWORKERS UNION
LOCAL – 599 - 0**



**SUBMISSION TO THE
CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION**

In the matter of

**THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE
OPERATING LICENSE
FOR
GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI
NUCLEAR FUEL FACILITY LOCATED IN
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO**

November 8, 2010

Members of the Commission:

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization of workers who are represented by unions or worker associations in various sectors of the Canadian nuclear industry. A list of our member unions is attached as Appendix A.

Our submission is on behalf of the nuclear industry workers in Canada and also in support of our council member, the Communications, Energy, & Paper Workers' Union (CEP) Local 599 – O, which represents some of the workers at GE/Hitachi in Peterborough. CEP represents the technicians that service the fuel assembly process as well as the fueling machine department. The other workers are represented by the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW). The CAW local at time of writing are in discussion with the CNWC in regards to affiliation and at this time are not included in our submission.

As do all of the member organizations of the CNWC, CEP Local 599, considers' the health and safety of workers to be paramount. The union fully endorses and supports the very active health and safety culture promoted and established by GE and has worked with management to establish many safety policies which are in place at the worksite.

The plant Safety Committee consists of both union and management representatives. It meets monthly to address any and all health and safety issues. Monthly meetings well exceed the requirements for the frequency of meetings required under Federal Law for this type of workplace. CEP 599 has two representatives on the committee.

Labour relations in a workplace are never perfect but management and the union at GE/Hitachi in Peterborough continues to have a very good working relationship.

During regular CNSC audits of the workplace, union and management representatives from the Safety Committee accompany the Commission inspectors. The Safety Committee has the authority to initiate action, and require a response within specific time limits, on any matter judged by Commission inspectors to require attention and improvement.

GE/Hitachi operations continue to receive positive community and industry response. CEP Local 599 and other CNWC member unions are members of the Peterborough & District Labour Council. There have been no concerns raised in regards to the facility by the local unions in the Peterborough Area.

The CEP is a union that holds the health and Safety of their members at the top of their agenda. The main Union has taken on several major health, safety and environmental campaigns over the years. This fact alone should assure the public that if there were any unsafe or environmental issues at the facility the CEP would be insisting that they were addressed.

The leadership of CEP Local 599 continues to assure the public that the Peterborough GE-Hitachi facility operates in a safe manner and is a great benefit to the community.

The workers at this facility live with their families in Peterborough and the surrounding communities. These workers would be first to raise the flag if anything arises that had the possibility of harming the health and safety of their families or the environment.

Many residents of Peterborough work at the OPG Darlington Nuclear Power Station which is located to the south west of the city. These workers are members of the CWWC member union, the Power Workers Union. The CNWC conducted a straw poll of these residents of Peterborough and found them in full support of the relicensing of this facility.

The CNWC and the CEP Local 599 support the CNSC Staff's report conclusions and recommendations contained in CMD 10-H-17.

The CNWC & CEP Local 599 therefore are in full support of having GE-Hitachi Operating License renewed.

Respectfully submitted

David Shier
President – CNWC

Rob Fleming
Executive Board member CEP 599 O

Membership of the

Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

Allied Trades Council

International Boiler makers Union

Local 126

Canadian Union of Public Employees

Locals 1500 & 267

Communication, Energy & Paper Workers Union

Canadian Auto Workers Union

Chalk River Technicians & Technologist Union

Hydro Quebec Engineers Union

International Association of Firefighters

Whiteshell

International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers

Local 608

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local 2309

Power Workers Union

Professional Institute of the Public Service

Whiteshell & Chalk River

Society of Professionals Engineers Union

AECL

United Steel Workers

Locals 8914 & 1565