



**CANADIAN  
NUCLEAR**  
WORKERS' COUNCIL

**CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS' COUNCIL'S  
SUBMISSION  
To**

**THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION  
IN REGARDS TO**

**BRUCE POWER INC's APPLICATION  
TO RENEW THEIR POWER REACTOR OPERATING LICENSE FOR A  
FIVE YEAR PERIOD**

**MARCH 16, 2015**

## **MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization of Unions that represent workers in all sectors of the Canadian Nuclear Industry. A list of our member Unions and the purpose and objectives of the council are attached as Appendices A & B.

The two main Unions at the Bruce site, the Power Workers Union (PWU) & the Society of Energy Professionals (SEP) are both members of the CNWC.

The Grey Bruce Labour Council (GBLC) is also affiliated to the CNWC. The GBLC is a Council of Unions in the Grey and Bruce County region. A number of these unions/union locals are in the vicinity of the Bruce Power site. This Council has been the voice of Labour in the Grey-Bruce area since 1956. Also often present at the labour council table are community groups, and retiree chapters.

The CNWC has reviewed the CMD documents submitted by Bruce Power Inc and the CNSC Staff in regards to the application of the Operating License renewal for Bruce A&B Nuclear Power Generating Stations.

We will comment on the following areas:

- Worker Safety & the Environment
- Public perception & support.
- Staffing
- Facility Operations
- Conclusions

## **WORKER SAFETY & ENVIROMENT**

The Nuclear Industry in Canada is a highly unionized sector. Unions place the health and safety of their members at the top of their agenda. It is our belief that unionized workplaces are safer places to work in as compared to non-unionized workplaces.

Workplace Health & Safety is legislated by provincial and federal statutes. It is very common in nuclear facilities' that the unions negotiate many provisions for health & safety which well exceed the minimum stated in legislation. This is the case at Bruce Power Inc.

There is a very extensive worker health & safety program at Bruce Power which involves the onsite unions. These provisions are covered extensively in the submission from the Power Workers Union so we will not repeat them here.

There is a very strong safety culture at Bruce Power which is very noticeable during plant tours and in discussion with workers from the site.

Workers and their unions are naturally concerned with environmental issues. Any issues that are of a concern will be brought to the attention of the employer by workers or their union.

It should comfort the public that workers carry out their duties in a very safe environment. If workers are safe then the public will be safe.

The CNWC fully supports the CNSC Staff's conclusion that Bruce Power exceeds regulatory requirements for conventional safety and radiological safety for workers.

## **PUBLIC PERCEPTION & SUPPORT**

The CNWC commends Bruce Power Inc for their outreach programs in the community. It is clear that the public is engaged. A recent example of this engagement is the recent telephone town hall meeting where over 17,000 people participated.

The Grey Bruce Labour Council delegates are members of the public. This organization attended a tour of the Bruce Site which was arranged by the CNWC. These delegates were able to witness the operation of the facility and get their questions answered. The GBLC is in support of the license renewal.

At the day 2 hearing, the GBLC Vice President, Mr. Kevin MacKay will be assisting with the CNWC oral presentation and will expand on the tour as well as public perception.

The CNWC being a Labour Organization respects dissenting views and debate. During our activities we hear the public's concerns. Our message to them is "make your decision on nuclear power issues on facts and not on emotion". In many incidences we find that after people get their questions answered they are supportive.

The CNWC believes that the silent majority of the public are supportive of the Bruce Power License renewal. We have partnered with the following organizations: Women in Nuclear, Nuclear Young Generation, & the Bruce Power Retirees Chapter in order to make an online petition available for the public to register their support for the license renewal.

## **STAFFING**

Nuclear workers are normally career staff in that they remain with their employer for their working life. We have seen very little turnover of regular employees at Bruce Power over the years with the exception of retirements. This type of employment environment results in a dedicated and experienced workforce.

Regular employees reside in and are active in the communities in the vicinity of Bruce Site. Their presence helps ensure the public that the Bruce Site is a safe facility.

The turnover of new workers replacing retiring staff has gone well. New workers bring new ideas which are very beneficial. It is expected that these new employees will continue the tradition of being dedicated career employees.

## **NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SAFE OPERATION**

The Commission has heard from Bruce Power Inc and the CNSC Staff on the procedures, processes, etc that are in place for the safe operation of the Bruce NPP.

The CNWC supports these provisions but suggests that the most important step in maintaining the safe operation of a facility is the front line workers. These front line unionized workers consist of; Security & ERT workers, Support workers, Trades staff, (such as Mechanics & Control Technicians), Operators, Engineers, Supervisors, etc. It is the skills and dedication of these workers that ensure the safety of the facilities.

The heart of the Power Station is the control room where the operation of the plant is coordinated. The reactor operators, Authorized Nuclear Operators (ANO) are charged with the responsibility of coordinating with all staff to ensure the safe operation of the plant 24/7.

During our day 2 presentation you will hear from our CNWC Site representative, Mr. Phorson, who is an ANO. He will expand on his role to ensure the safety of the Bruce Nuclear Power Stations.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The CNWC is in full support of Bruce Power Inc's application for a five year Operating license Renewal for the Bruce A & B Nuclear Power Stations.

Respectfully submitted

David Shier  
President

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Objectives of the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council**

- to ensure that the interests and perspective of nuclear workers are heard by decision-makers;
- to strengthen the collective role of nuclear workers as a partner in their industry;
- to enhance public knowledge and understanding of nuclear issues by providing factual information; and
- To build support for the nuclear industry and its future potential.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council Member Unions**

**Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Locals 1500, 2200, & 267**

**UNIFOR  
Locals 254, 48S, 252, 524**

**International Association of Firefighters**

**International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers  
Local 608**

**International Federation of Profession & Technical Engineers  
Local 160 & 164**

**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
Local 37**

**International Union of Operating Engineers  
Local 772**

**Construction & Building Trades Council of Ontario**

**Power Workers Union**

**Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPS)  
CRPEG, WRPEG, & WTPEG**

**United SteelWorkers  
Locals 8914, 7806, 14193, 13713, 8562, 4096, 1568**

**Society of Energy Professionals**

**Hydro Quebec Professional Engineers Union**

**Grey Bruce Labour Council**

**Durham Region Labour Council**

**Northumberland Labour Council**