



Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

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30 January, 2023

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources Canada, and
Member of Parliament for North Vancouver
jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Wilkinson

I am writing to express our appreciation for the unrelenting commitment of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to ensure Canada's nuclear facilities continue to operate safely.

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council (CNWC) was formed in 1993 as an association of Unions representing Workers across Canada's nuclear industry. This includes the thousands of highly skilled professionals employed at all of Canada's nuclear power plants. There is nothing more important to us than maintaining the highest standards of health and safety in our workplaces and the optimal health of our host communities. We live, work and play in these communities with our Families and Friends. It is clearly in our interest to ensure these facilities are operated safely. The CNWC is a regular participant in the regulatory process and we have many opportunities to interact with the CNSC. We've witnessed the CNSC's uncompromising commitment to the protection of Workers, the Environment and the Public. We've never witnessed any action or inaction that could compromise safety.

It's important to ensure our perspectives are heard regarding an [article in the Globe and Mail on 05 January 2023](#) and criticisms about the CNSC from groups such as the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA).

We followed the issue very closely following the discovery of elevated hydrogen levels in pressure tubes. In our opinion the CNSC took immediate and appropriate regulatory actions and the issue was analysed thoroughly and professionally. The CNSC conducted all of this in a very transparent, public process. We support the decisions of the Commission and conclusions that pressure tubes and reactor operations are safe. In addition, we agree with the [CNSC's response to the Globe and Mail article](#).

We wholeheartedly encourage raising concerns but accusations by the OCAA that the CNSC is ignoring safety issues are simply wrong.

Canada's nuclear industry is important for Canada and for all Canadians. Nuclear energy provides us with a source of clean, reliable electricity without greenhouse gas emissions. This is becoming increasingly important as we look for opportunities to mitigate climate change. Nuclear also provides Canadians with the medical isotopes we need for our high-quality healthcare, sustainable high-quality employment opportunities, economic growth and continuing innovation.

A successful, sustainable nuclear industry requires a strong, independent and transparent regulator. Canada has that.

Canadians can be assured that our nuclear power plants continue to be operated to the highest standards and our nuclear facilities continue to rank amongst the safest workplaces anywhere. The Workplace Parties work together to ensure this is always the priority. Strong regulatory oversight with public participation help maintain that. We have the utmost confidence in the CNSC and we commend their professional, thorough, fact-based and transparent approach to nuclear safety.

Bob Walker
National Director
Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

About the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

The CNWC has been the collective voice of Unionized Workers across Canada's Nuclear Industry since 1993. Our Member Unions represent Workers in uranium mines and mills, nuclear fuel fabrication, nuclear power plant (NPP) operation and maintenance, NPP construction and refurbishment, engineering, medical isotope production, nuclear research and development, nuclear waste management and decommissioning. CNWC Membership also includes a number of District Labour Councils from nuclear host communities. Nuclear power is a proven, safe, reliable and non-GHG emitting source of electricity that will have an important role in our clean energy future.

<http://cnwc-cctn.ca>

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council is comprised of Locals of the following organizations: District Labour Councils (Grey/Bruce, Durham, Northumberland, Lindsay and Saint John) * International Association of Firefighters * International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers * International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers * United Steel Workers * Power Workers' Union * Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada * Public Service Alliance of Canada * Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario (Ont. Building Trades) * Society of United Professionals * Society of Professional Engineers and Associates * UNIFOR * International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers