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May 28, 2013

Hon. Madeleine Meilleur
Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services
18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON
M7A 1Y6

Re: Request for a public review of Ontario's nuclear emergency plans

Dear Minister Meilleur,

We write to request that Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) undertake a full public review of Ontario's nuclear emergency plans to address lessons from the Fukushima nuclear accident.

We don't believe Ontario's nuclear emergency plans are robust enough to protect Ontarians, particularly the four million people living within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Since the Fukushima disaster in Japan began two years ago, there has been a growing acknowledgement that governments must be ready to protect people from large and prolonged accidental radiation releases.

We are very concerned your Ministry has yet to revise nuclear emergency plans since the Fukushima accident, while the government has continued to pursue its plan to build new and rebuild old reactors at Darlington, as well as run the six aging Pickering reactors beyond their planned design life.

Ontario's current detailed emergency plans only prepare for small-scale accidents with negligible radioactive releases. This must change in light of Fukushima, and because of new knowledge on the risks posed by Ontario's nuclear stations.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) recently released a revised risk assessment for the Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) showing it is highly vulnerable to large accidental radiation releases. These are accidents that could require the long-term abandonment of land. Added to this new understanding of the station's risk, EMO's current outdated 2009 emergency preparedness requirements have yet to be fully implemented in the case of the Pickering NGS.

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We request that this public review consider the potential for major accidents with offsite impacts at Ontario's Bruce, Pickering and Darlington NGSs. We would also like to respectfully remind the government that past reviews of Ontario's nuclear emergency plans in the 1980s and 1990s were public and transparent.ⁱ

In summary, we are significantly concerned by the new understanding of the risks posed by the six aging Pickering reactors and by the government's failure to update nuclear emergency plans in light of Fukushima.

We ask you as the Minister of Emergency Preparedness to take action and require Ontario's off-site nuclear emergency plans to be revised in an open, transparent and meaningful way with public participation. We also ask that this review begin in the near-term, before the end of 2013.

Truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL
LAW ASSOCIATION



Theresa McClenaghan
Executive Director

GREENPEACE



Shawn-Patrick Stensil
Nuclear Campaigner

DURHAM NUCLEAR AWARENESS

"Janet McNeill"

Janet McNeill
Spokesperson

ⁱ Such as the Ontario Nuclear Safety Review

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