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GREENPEACE

Environmentalists file formal request to limit Bruce Power's licence

April 16, 2015 (Kincardine, ON) – The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) and Greenpeace Canada have formally asked the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to drop the five year licence requested by Bruce Power for the Bruce A nuclear station, and instead grant them a licence for only two years.

“During the past four days of public hearings we’ve learned that that Bruce Power has yet to provide the needed safety reviews to support extending the lives of Bruce A reactors. In light of this, a five year licence is far too long,” said Shawn-Patrick Stensil, Senior Nuclear Analyst with Greenpeace.

Using a mechanism in the CNSC’s rules of procedures, CELA and Greenpeace have filed a request for ruling which requires the Commission to either accept or reject the groups’ request and provide reasons to support their final decision on Bruce Power licence application.

“We’ve asked for a shorter licence so that offsite emergency plans, the safety case for extending the life of the Bruce reactors and the risk of the entire Bruce station, can be scrutinized at a public meeting. Public safety decisions should not be made behind closed doors,” said Theresa McClenaghan, executive director and counsel with CELA.

According to Ontario’s Long Term Energy Plan, one of the oldest reactors at the Bruce A station was due to close next year and be rebuilt so it can continue operating.

Bruce Power told the Commission this week that they have delayed this repair work until a new multi-billion dollar power purchase contract with the Ontario government has been secured; only then will Bruce Power submit the safety reviews needed to support this reactor life-extension.

Today is the fourth and final day of the CNSC’s hearings on Bruce Power’s application to continue operating the Bruce nuclear station.

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