

Statement

Five year licence for Bruce reactors is a bad idea

28 May 2015 (Toronto, ON) Greenpeace is disappointed that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has given Bruce Power a single five year licence for all eight reactors at the Bruce nuclear station for the first time, in spite of the significant safety issues raised during public hearings last month.

“This is clearly a rushed rubberstamping of Bruce Power’s license application. The Commission hasn’t even provided reasons for its decision despite the significant safety risks raised by the public,” said Shawn-Patrick Stensil, Senior Nuclear Analyst with Greenpeace Canada.

During the public hearings last month, Greenpeace and other groups argued that Bruce Power should be given a shorter licence for the four Bruce A reactors because those reactors are supposed to be rebuilt over the next five years according to the government of Ontario’s Long Term Energy Plan.

Greenpeace and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) formally requested a shorter licence for the Bruce A reactors because Bruce Power failed to submit a safety case for rebuilding Bruce for the hearings, nuclear emergency plans are incomplete and, despite years of operation, Bruce Power has yet to develop a comprehensive, site-wide risk assessment for the station.

“The Commission has opted to reduce opportunities for public scrutiny by giving one single licence to all eight reactors” said Stensil, noting that historically, the Bruce A and B nuclear stations have received separate licences.

Stensil noted that the formal ruling request filed by Greenpeace wasn’t even mentioned in the decision published today by the CNSC.

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