Summer Emergency Drills & CNSC Witnessed Exercise on September 30th

One of the ways BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc. (BWXT NEC) protects the health, safety and security of its employees, members of the public and environment is by ensuring that there is always an up-to-date and effective emergency plan in place. The plan outlines how we will prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies at our facilities. The effectiveness of our plans are continuously assessed through regular drills and exercises.

We are currently updating our plan for the Peterborough facility. Over the course of the summer, we successfully conducted a series of drills. These drills occurred in July through September and first responders were on-site as part of a coordinated effort to ensure effective response in the event of a real emergency. First responders participate in a number of drills with many businesses, schools and organizations in the Peterborough area to ensure they are familiar with the area and ready for any type of emergency.

In June, before the drills occurred, we sent a postcard mailer to our neighbours with information about our upcoming Emergency Drills in the summer. We also posted this information on our website (www.nec.bwxt.com) and on social media. We wanted to make sure the public was aware in advance of the drills. On drill days, we hung fence line banners along Monaghan Road near our entrance, updated our 1.855.696.9588 voicemail and the front page of our website, and had representatives out front of the facility to answer questions from the public.

On September 30th, BWXT NEC will participate in a scheduled full-scale exercise at the 1160 Monaghan Road facility which will be witnessed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

There are no credible accident scenarios that require evacuation or shelter in place of the public due to a release of radiation from the Peterborough or Toronto site. Neither site houses a nuclear reactor, but rather natural uranium, which cannot become highly radioactive until it is installed in a nuclear reactor at our customers’ sites.

Contact us at questions@bwxt.com or 1.855.696.9588 if you have any questions,
BWXT Completes Soil Sampling in Peterborough

BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc. (BWXT), a subsidiary of BWXT Canada Ltd., announced today that it has completed soil sampling for the presence of beryllium at several sites in Peterborough, including the Prince of Wales Public School across from its facility on Monaghan Road.

Beryllium is a lightweight but strong metal found in the earth’s crust and can be found in everything from cell phones and airbag sensors to aircrafts and pacemakers. Beryllium, which can be hazardous if its use is not properly controlled, is used in small amounts at BWXT’s Peterborough operations to join portions of the fuel bundle together. Its use is controlled by a robust program that protects the health and safety of employees, the public and the environment.

Soil samples were obtained and analyzed by two independent outside laboratories. All results are well below the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment’s (CCME) guidelines for the protection of environmental health (4 mg/kg) and human health (75 mg/kg). According to the CCME, concentration of beryllium in soil in Canada ranges from 0.25 mg/kg to 16 mg/kg and averages 0.75 mg/kg, whereas samples taken for BWXT did not exceed 0.52 mg/kg. The full report is available on BWXT NEC’s website at www.nec.bwxt.com.

“These test results that are all significantly lower than the level regarded as safe by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks confirm that our controls are effective and that our operations do not negatively impact the public or the environment,” said John MacQuarrie, president of BWXT Nuclear Energy Canada Inc. “BWXT is proud that our nuclear fuel production in Peterborough safely contributes to the fight against climate change by supporting the production of clean electricity that does not create greenhouse gases.”

Soil quality guideline for protection of human health: 75 mg/kg

Range of beryllium in soil in Canada: 0.25 to 16.0 mg/kg

Laboratory detection limit: 0.50 mg/kg

1 sample measured 0.50 mg/kg
1 sample measured 0.52 mg/kg

14 of 16 samples measured below laboratory detection limit of 0.50 mg/kg including 8 of 9 samples taken at Prince of Wales Public School

BWXT’s sampling for the presence of beryllium in soil is unrelated to the potential for conducting pelleting in Peterborough, which was the subject of an amendment request in the recent licence renewal application and public hearing. No beryllium is used in the pelleting process.
Revised CNSC Notice on BWXT NEC’s Licence Renewal

On July 29th, 2020, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) published a revised notice of continuation of public hearing on their website. The original notice from April 6th, 2020, noted a Commission direction for CNSC staff to conduct soil resampling for beryllium at properties near BWXT NEC’s Peterborough facility, with a focus on Prince of Wales Public School. The Commission also requested CNSC staff complete an analysis to determine if there is any risk to the environment or public and to identify the source of the beryllium.

CNSC staff requested an extension of two months to complete the resampling and analyses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission granted CNSC staff an extension to complete both items by October 30th, 2020. Once the Commission receives this information from CNSC staff, they will then deliberate on BWXT NEC’s licence renewal. Results will be made available to the public on the CNSC’s website.

During the licence renewal hearing in Toronto and Peterborough in March, 2020, BWXT NEC committed to conducting its own beryllium soil sampling using an independent laboratory. The sampling was recently conducted and results are available on our website at www.nec.bwxt.com.

The CNSC’s revised notice can be found at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/ or on www.nec.bwxt.com. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact us at questions@bwxt.com or 1.855.696.9588.

Dedicated Social Media Channels

BWXT NEC is launching its own dedicated social media profiles to better connect with its communities in Toronto, Peterborough and Arnprior.

We will post more information on our website (www.nec.bwxt.com) soon!

Facebook Live Event

As you may have read in our spring newsletter, we cancelled our annual summer community BBQ because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a hard decision for the BWXT NEC team as we look forward to this important community event each year. The annual community BBQ gives our team the opportunity to meet with our neighbours to answer questions and address concerns. We are able to have one-on-one conversations, review emissions from Annual Compliance Reports and discuss ways BWXT NEC can improve its public information program. We have chosen to host a virtual event in lieu of the BBQ. We present you with BWXT NEC’s first ever Facebook Live:

Please join us for BWXT NEC’s Facebook Live

Tuesday, October 27th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Join our Facebook Live to learn more about BWXT NEC’s operations, licence renewal, safety, recent beryllium soil sampling, emergency preparedness and more.

BWXT NEC subject matter experts will be available to answer your questions and if you wish to submit questions in advance, please email us at questions@bwxt.com.

More information about this event will be posted on our public information website (www.nec.bwxt.com) soon!
Progressive Aboriginal Relations

BWXT’s Canadian operations joined the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Businesses (CCAB) in 2017 and is participating in their Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. BWXT developed an internal PAR Working Group to meet to discuss ways to build and sustain positive relationships with Indigenous communities in areas where BWXT operates. The group meets every six weeks and is comprised of employees from a variety of departments and sites in Canada.

Our PAR Working Group recently completed Phase 2 of the PAR program and has been working on providing cultural awareness training resources for employees. The group is planning on purchasing a series of books written by Bob Joseph for each site in Canada to have available for the working group and for employees to read. The group is also exploring other methods and ways to share information related to the history of Indigenous Peoples with employees.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

You’re invited to take a short online survey at www.bwxtsurvey.ca.

Fill out the survey for your chance to win a $500.00 VISA gift card!

Survey will run from October 15th to November 20th, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact us at questions@bwxt.com or 1.855.696.9588.

This survey is being conducted on behalf of BWXT NEC by Ipsos, an independent research firm.