

Peterborough Community Liaison Committee Meeting Record

Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

BWXT NEC: Monifa Miller, Senior Director, Corporate Affairs
David Snopek, Director, EHS and Regulatory Affairs
Jordan Brown, Engineering Manager, Fuel Shop Engineering
Carlos Reyes, Specialist, Communications and Community Relations

CLC Members: Bruce Roxburgh (Co-Chair), Julie Ingram, Jake Wadland

Absent: Christa Lemelin, Deirdre McGahern, Julian Aherne

Guests: **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission**
Julian Amalraj, Senior Project Officer
Dr. Slobodan Jovanovic, Chief Analyst
Kristi Randhawa, Radiation and Health Sciences Officer
Angela Corcoran, Communication Advisor

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Tymen Deweerd, Air Quality Analyst
David Bradley, District Manager

Discussion Notes:

Miller commenced the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance. Following these remarks, Miller shared a land acknowledgement, noting BWXT's commitment to building meaningful relations with Indigenous communities. She then shared a safety moment. No alarm was scheduled or planned for the evening.

Snopek pointed out emergency exits and assembly areas.

Miller then reviewed the agenda, noting the meeting's targeted outcomes, which were agreed upon in advance:

- Increased BWXT understanding of CLC concerns around BWXT operations in Peterborough;
- Increased CLC understanding of BWXT's operations, with a focus on the environment, health and safety practices at our Peterborough operations;
- Increased CLC understanding of BWXT's rationale for our decision regarding continuous air monitoring at our Peterborough operations; and
- Identification of mutual areas of understanding and any productive next steps.

Miller invited Brown to present an overview of BWXT NEC operations.

Brown shared that BWXT NEC is part of BWXT Commercial Operations and employs more than 400 employees and at three locations: Peterborough, Toronto and Arnprior. He described the products and services BWXT NEC Peterborough provides to the commercial nuclear industry:

- Equipment and services for the CANDU nuclear reactor fleet
- Fuel handling and engineered solutions
- Fuel bundle production process

Brown displayed a mock-up fuel bundle, which was passed around for closer look by each guest. He noted the highly automated process involved in fuel bundle production and the role of quality assurance measures.

CLC Ingram: How many pellets are in a fuel bundle?

Brown: About 30 pellets.

Following Brown's presentation, Miller invited Snopek to present on BWXT's Peterborough Environment, Health, and Safety Practices. He covered several important topics, including:

- An overview of uranium and beryllium
- The regulatory landscape: BWXT NEC's compliance with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) standards and requirements
- Environmental controls and monitoring
- Environmental performance

CLC Ingram: If there is a problem, how is it detected?

Snopek described the BWXT NEC air filtering system, which includes filters, lab testing and comparison with previous findings.

Following a refreshment break, Miller invited Amalraj to share findings from the CNSC's study on beryllium in air around BWXT's Peterborough facility, which was conducted in 2022.

Amalraj thanked the group for the invitation and acknowledged the CLC's questions and concerns around BWXT NEC air monitoring in Peterborough. He then invited Randhawa to present findings from the study.

Randhawa began by reviewing the activities involved in the study. She described source monitoring versus ambient monitoring and the process to validate sampling methods. She also noted that the CNSC consulted with CLC member Aherne throughout the study.

Randhawa explained that some challenges were experienced during the sampling process, including the disruptive noise level caused by the sampling equipment at night.

Randhawa shared the study's conclusion:

- A very small amount of beryllium was measured in one of the three samples. This measurable beryllium could be coming from a number of natural and human activities.
- These results confirm that levels of beryllium in air are negligible and well below air quality guidelines that are protective of human health and the environment.

- The extended air sampling results showed that even when sampling times are increased to 72 hours, the amount of beryllium in the air is extremely low and does not pose any risk to the health of the community or to the environment.

Amalraj reiterated the CNSC conclusion that there was no risk to the environment or to human health from beryllium in locations surrounding the BWXT NEC Peterborough facility.

He asked what else is needed to address this community concern.

CLC Wadland: Trust is needed. He suggested the continuous independent air monitoring could be used as a step toward building that trust. He expressed that he still did not understand why BWXT NEC does not invest in this measure.

CLC Ingram noted that she needed a refresher on in stack monitoring.

Snopek explained the steps involved in stack monitoring at BWXT NEC. This process includes filters removed on a weekly basis and sent to an independent lab for analysis, the results of which are compared to findings from previous years.

CLC Wadland thanked Snopek for his response and asked if the MECP had anything to add.

Bradley shared that MECP was satisfied with BWXT NEC's monitoring activities.

Deweerd agreed with the CNSC findings.

Amalraj added that the CNSC is satisfied, as a regulator, about BWXT NEC operations in Peterborough.

Miller closed the meeting with a review of the meeting's targeted outcomes. She expressed satisfaction with the discussion and noted there was some progress made, though at varying degrees for each goal.

Miller asked if there were any additional questions or comments.

The CLC had no questions or comments.

Miller thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.