

RECEIVED MAY 12 1975

Joe

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I note the minister

NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION IN N.B. CLEARED BY ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

Environment Minister Jeanne Sauv  today announced her decision to accept the conclusions and recommendations of the Environmental Assessment Panel which made a detailed appraisal of the environmental impact of the nuclear generating station that the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission proposes to build at Point Lepreau, on the Bay of Fundy.

from reports

Madame Sauv  said that she had advised the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Donald MacDonald, that Environment Canada has no objection to the installation of a single-unit, 600-megawatt, pressurized heavy-water-type reactor. She added that such a generating station can be built at Point Lepreau without significant adverse environmental effects, provided that the recommendations made by the Panel are implemented.

The Minister pointed out that the assessment of the Lepreau project was the first one carried out under the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP), instituted in April 1974 which requires that all projects involving federal funds or federal crown lands be screened in the early planning stage to ensure they do the least possible damage to the environment.

Since Cabinet in May, 1974 conditionally approved financial assistance to the Lepreau project under a program administered by Energy, Mines and Resources, the project became subject to EARP scrutiny.

EARP includes a provision that the Panel may hold public hearings. Under this provision, a meeting was held in New Brunswick this spring, and about 58 briefs were considered and assessed. The Minister stated that she intends to make public the full report of the panel.

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This information was released to the wire services on the date indicated. Despite the delay, some releases and speeches are mailed to out-of-town media because the content is not time-dependent or because it will be useful for background files.

Cette information a  t  transmise aux agences de presse   la date indiqu e. Malgr  le retard, certains communiqu s et discours sont exp di s aux m dia de l'ext rieur, parce que leur contenu n'a rien   voir avec les d lais ou parce qu'ils peuvent servir comme documentation.

JS