

PRESS RELEASE

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NEW BRUNSWICK

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CONSEIL DE CONSERVATION DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

Nuclear Generating Station, Point Lepreau

Two years ago the N.B.E.P.C. and the Government stated that the Colson Cove generating plant must be built immediately but would satisfy the needs of New Brunswick until the year 1985 when all the power generated would be required within the province. Now the power from a nuclear station is required before 1980. Does the Power Commission believe the people of New Brunswick have short memories? or are there incompetants at the head of the Power Commission. At the time of the Lorneville hearings and the start of the Colson Cove project we asked for complete studies and public hearings before any other such project started. We are not getting them. In new regulations last spring the Federal Department of the Environment made impact studies and hearing mandatory for any projects having Federal support. Where are these studies and hearings?

The Council is very concerned over the apparent lack of in depth studies of the site and impact of a nuclear plant on the area and the time involved to make such studies and evaluate them precludes a start on the plant for several years.

In going over the Environment report of the various sites for the Nuclear Generating Station prepared by the N.B.E.P.C. it gives the impression of being hurriedly written due to misused terminology and statements without meaning, and apparently out of context.

The site has been proposed as a nature interpretative area in connection with the proposed Lepreau Provincial Park. This use of the point will no longer be possible.

In the report there are a number of disturbing statements. Section one gives some of the criteria that should be considered and what limitations certain conditions impose. Then when we examine the onsite conditions they do not meet the required conditions for a good nuclear plant site. Some examples will be mentioned below.

In section one of the report - Ground Water Conditions and Waste Management - it is stated that "ground water contamination by radio active wastes gives rise to two areas of concern which are:

- (1) Contamination of wells and springs creating a public health hazard.
- (2) Transporting the radio active wastes to the sea where they would enter the food chain."

In section where they are discussing the ground water at Point Lepreau they state "Although no information is available on the water bearing zones beneath the site, it is considered that the movement of the ground water will be extremely complex...." and "The direction of ground water flow would appear to be towards the sea " and " Due to the possibly complex nature of the ground water flow, and taking into the account the limited thickness of the overburden, detailed hydrogeological investigations will be required before selecting a storage site for low level wastes." In notes on desirable characteristics for an active storage site it gives the criteria for such a site. The Lepreau site does not meet the requirements for four of the six criteria given.

The section on Meteorology stresses the importance of air currents on the safety of the emission from the plant. They are using the same data as was used for the Colson Cove Project which was deemed completely inadequate by competent Meteorologists. A study is now going on but it will take at least a year to finish.

In section 1-8 they state that all faults five miles or longer and within twenty-five miles of the site are considered potential threats and must be thoroughly investigated. In section 4-4 on the Geology of the Lepreau site they mention a number of major faults on all sides of the site and within 2 to 10 miles of the site which require intensive study. The bedrock of the area shows extensive slicken sides indicating substantial differential movement of the local rock. A complete detailed study is required of the area.

In the section on Hydrological and Oceanographic Conditions they say "Based on limited current measurement taken during the preliminary field surveys currents are..." also "Examination of aerial photographs and current data indicate large scale eddies on both shores of the point with potential recirculation effects". This would indicate poor dispersion of waste heat. Observation of the movement of silt at the upper end of the Bay would indicate that a body of silt laden water moves out with the tide and the same body of water moves back in on the tide without mixing. Does this happen off Point Lepreau also. It is necessary then to ascertain what does occur near the Point and in the Bay of Fundy itself. This will take several years as overall current patterns change with the seasons.

The Council would recommend that no construction start at the site until all studies are made and evaluated and final approval is given by the

licensing board. New Brunswick is too poor a province to waste money on construction before such approval is given and then have to relocate the site as was done at Gentilly, Quebec.