

The Hon. Brian Pallister,
Premier of Manitoba
Legislative Building,
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

June 29, 2021

Dear Premier Pallister,

Re: Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs)

This letter is coming to you from a number of organizations and individuals whose knowledge of and concern addresses the due diligence that should be required before authorizing, or investing in, any new nuclear reactors in the Province of Manitoba, or in Canada as a whole. We understand that the Local Government District (LGD) of Pinawa is in the process of seeking approval for a “Small Modular Nuclear Reactor” to be sited at Pinawa with the intention of providing electrical power to the town, in addition to being a “demonstration site” for the technology.

1. We have seen no evidence that an independent peer review has been conducted of the plans for the SMNR technology that is being promoted by the LGD of Pinawa. Do you have such evidence?

2. Has your legislature debated the wisdom of building a new nuclear reactor when there are no approved long-term storage facilities anywhere in Canada for the radioactive waste from existing reactors?

3. Has your government considered the risks, including weapons proliferation risks, involved in using “advanced” nuclear fuels? The use of plutonium and enriched uranium as fuels will require new levels of safety and security beyond those required for existing CANDU reactors. The proposed Pinawa reactor will use 15% enriched uranium as fuel.

5. The nuclear industry and supporting governments anticipate “recycling” of existing used nuclear fuel to extract plutonium through reprocessing or pyroprocessing technology. Has your government investigated the history of extraordinary costs and difficulties in dealing with the radioactive waste streams resulting from such activities in the USA, UK, France, and Russia?

We urge your government to take the time to learn about the economic and other disadvantages, as well as the purported advantages, of this and other proposed new nuclear reactor designs. They may well turn out to be unviable, like the two Maple reactors that were built at Chalk River, Ontario, the Slowpoke District Heating reactor that was built in Pinawa, Manitoba, or the Superphénix reactor that was built in France. Such mistakes in the nuclear

field can result in very expensive long-term liabilities that far exceed any benefits that may have been expected.

We can be of help by providing resource materials or suggesting experts to consult. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Lindsey, O.M., MA

on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Manitoba

And the following other organizations:

Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, Dr. Gordon Edwards

Canadian Environmental Law Association, Theresa McClenaghan

Citizens Against Radioactive Neighbourhoods, Peterborough, Ontario, Peter Harris

Citizens for Responsible Energy Development (New Brunswick), Dr. Susan O'Donnell

Coalition for a Clean, Green Saskatchewan, Karen Weingeist

Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet (NW Ontario), Paul Berger

Algoma-Manitoulin, Green Party of Ontario Constituency Association, Sarah Gabrielle Baron

Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Shawn Kettner

Northwatch (Ontario), Brennain Lloyd