

Nuclear for BC Organization

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January 12, 2025

Dear Mayor and Councillors for the District of Mackenzie,

This is a letter of support for Councillor Jesse Wright's motion regarding Nuclear Energy in BC. I was excited to discover it posted on LinkedIn. His motion is very much aligned with the purpose of our non-profit organization: promoting the discussion, education, and adoption of nuclear technology in BC.

At first glance, the District of Mackenzie appears to be in an excellent location for a large scale nuclear power plant, especially given the low seismic activity. It is possible that more remote areas of BC could benefit from adopting small modular reactors (SMRs) although seismic activity would be a factor in future decisions. Currently BC is prevented from considering these options due to legislation in the Clean Energy Act.

Nuclear technology can be a contentious issue. As demand for clean and environmentally friendly energy increases, nuclear energy cannot be ignored. Nuclear energy is a critical part of Canada's energy plan. Other provinces have adopted nuclear energy, and more nuclear reactors are expected in the coming decades.

Many of the concerns about nuclear energy relate to the lifecycle of the uranium fuel. These challenges have been (or will be) addressed in Canada. BC would be a late adopter of nuclear energy. Canada must enact a solution for the lifecycle of the uranium fuel regardless of adoption in BC. In November 2024 the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced it has selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and the Township of Ignace as the host communities for the future site for Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel. Consider the advantages of having your primary environmental concerns concentrated in small quantities of solid form.

More exciting concerns about nuclear energy relate to the infamous nuclear disasters. In Canada, nuclear energy has had a proven and safe track record. Engineering, operational, and administrative practices can all be improved by studying past incidents. It would seem logical that by the time a nuclear reactor project became a reality in BC it would be using modern engineering, operation, and administrative practices resulting in a safe and reliable source of electricity.

Given the many stages involved in conceptualizing, approving, engineering, and constructing a nuclear reactor, is it necessary to have a legislative block to nuclear energy? It seems more reasonable that if nuclear energy is the best option for an application, it should have its chance in an approval process that would not skip engagement with the community and First Nations.

Sincerely,

Hugh Turner

President

Nuclear For BC

www.NuclearForBC.ca