

Comments on Global First Power's Proposal to Build Micro Modular Reactors

I am strongly opposed to any project to build reactors of any size anywhere and especially not at Chalk River. There is no plan in the proposal on how to deal with the high level radioactive waste that would be produced and no indication of where the enriched nuclear fuel would come from. The very concept of smaller reactors located all over our country including remote locations means that super radioactive fuel (much more dangerous than that used in Candu reactors) and its high level radioactive waste would be transported all over the country from and to sources or disposal sites. This fact alone means that the exemption from an environmental impact assessment is a mistake with huge potential consequences. How can we expect to manage safety inspections and compliance issues for reactors all over our remote areas where transportation alone is a huge obstacle? How can we even think the fuel supply process and waste storage issues will have solutions when we have not solved these problems after 30 or more years of study on Candu fuel and waste? The answer is of course that there is no good way to dispose of radioactive wastes, especially high level nuclear fuel wastes.

I hope that the CNSC and the government of Canada will also see that this proposal would not yield results for many, many years and that renewable energy options are available right now without a huge and ongoing expenditure of tax dollars. In fact, I must conclude that proposals to build new reactors or poorly thought out disposal sites are just ways that this industry can keep on bilking billions of dollars out of our economy.

I must also remind regulators and the public that the nuclear industry's efforts to present itself as "Green Power" are self serving and blatant untruths. The energy used and the pollution and disruption of our land that are caused by the nuclear fuel mining and refinement alone far surpass any energy value or cleanliness statements that can be made about the reactors themselves. These and waste management are the issues that the industry should be forced to solve long before even applying for licenses to build even more reactors of new types largely at our expense.

Please consider these points and those of the many people who are responding to this proposal. It is time to move on from the lure of nuclear power and start to put in place energy sources that are already researched, proven, known and safe. Tackle energy supply issues one by one for each case and find the best way to apply known solutions to provide safe, renewable energy sources.

Thank you for your attention to these points.

Kenneth Birkett BAsc.