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Joseph Vigder
Project Manager, Atlantic Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Reference #: 83998

Dear Mr. Vigder

Last week, I listened to a CBC Radio interview with an environmental lawyer, and I was shocked to learn that the SMNR Demonstration Project at Point Lepreau on the Bay of Fundy could proceed without a full Impact Assessment.

It is my understanding that your agency is responsible for recommending Minister Guilbeault to either authorize or deny an impact assessment of this project. I wanted to reach out to you personally as a concerned NB citizen and add my voice to the voices of many New Brunswick citizens to ask that you recommend a full environmental impact assessment of the SMNR project in New Brunswick. SMNRs are at a beginning stage, but eventually, the plan is to produce them on a large scale, therefore this is the time to have them assessed, before millions more dollars are spent on a design that could have detrimental environmental consequences.

This first of its kind experimental nuclear project is on the traditional territory of the Peskotomuhkati Nation with ramifications for the rights of the Wolastoqey and Mi'gmaq Nations. Treaty and Indigenous rights must be included in the Impact Assessment. Although the NB government claims that it has the full support of First Nations people in New Brunswick, I have personally spoken with Ron Tremblay, the grand chief of the Wolastoq First Nations, and I know that this is just not true.

The proposed project will be located in a beautiful, coastal rural region with locally important fishing, tourism and wild blueberry industries, next to the Musquash Estuary Nature Reserve and near the globally significant UNESCO Biosphere Reserve on the Bay of Fundy.

The SMR Demonstration Project at Point Lepreau ought to attract the most rigorous form of public engagement and planning, through the Impact Assessment Act.

I fully support the request by the Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB) for you to designate this project for an Impact Assessment.

Hopefully,

Laura Myers