

**Date:** February 11, 2026

**To:** Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

**Attention:** Nuclear Energy Review Panel

**RE: Ontario Power Generation's Proposal to Construct a Nuclear Plant in Port Hope**

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) joins hundreds of community residents, independent experts, organizations, and members of the public in opposing Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposal to construct a 10,000 MW nuclear power plant at Wesleyville in Port Hope.

For decades, this area has served as a dumping site for contaminated soil, tailings, and waste materials originating from industrial activity, including the operations of the Eldorado radium refinery, which began in 1932.<sup>1</sup> Contaminated soil and waste were used as fill throughout the community and deposited in the harbour and ravines well into the 1980s. Many residents—often unaware of the radioactive materials beneath their properties—have experienced serious health effects, and ongoing remediation efforts continue to reveal the full extent of the contamination.

**Background: Legacy of Contamination**

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**Seismic Risk and Site Selection Concerns**

NCWC is deeply concerned about the proposal to build what would become one of the world's largest nuclear generating stations on the shores of Lake Ontario. The Wesleyville site, like the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, lies above a major bedrock lineament associated with known seismic activity. Research by Dr. Arsalan Mohajer of the University of Toronto and others has shown that these faults remain active and carry ongoing earthquake risk.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Eldorado radium refinery started operations in 1932. Contaminated soil, tailings, and waste material were deposited in the harbour, ravines, and used as fill throughout the community from the 1930s through the 1980

<sup>2</sup> Provincial Council of Women of Ontario brief to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). See also: Mohajer, A. (1993), University of Toronto article documenting active faults near Pickering Nuclear Generating Station based on several years of seismic study in the Rouge Valley and Lake Ontario area (early seismic work conducted for OPG). Current research continues to recognize these structures as defined by persistent earthquake activity (Mohajer 1991, 1992; Wallach et al. 1998).

We also note that OPG has presented an incomplete and insufficient case for this project. The proposal fails to demonstrate any clear need for additional nuclear capacity and does not adequately account for the significant financial, environmental, and safety risks involved. Moreover, it neglects viable alternative energy sources—such as solar, wind, battery storage, and conservation measures—that are far cleaner, safer, and more cost-effective.

**Call for Action:**

In the interest of the residents of Port Hope, the broader Ontario community, and Canadians across provinces where new nuclear developments are being considered, we call on the **Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)** to ensure a comprehensive, precautionary approach to nuclear planning through the following actions:

- a) Conduct a **full environmental assessment and public hearing** regarding OPG's proposal to build a new nuclear station in Port Hope.
- b) Require OPG to **acknowledge and address existing radioactive contamination**, as well as the potential effects of ongoing operational emissions and seismic hazards associated with any new facility.
- c) Require OPG to **evaluate and prioritize lower-cost, lower-risk, and cleaner alternatives**, including renewable energy generation, energy storage, and conservation programs.

We look forward to receiving notice of actions taken.

Sincerely,

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CC. Gracia Janes NCWC VP Environment

*Mission Statement:*

*To empower all women to work together towards improving the quality of life for women, families, and society through a forum of member organizations and individuals.*