

March 31 2011

For Immediate Release

CCNB Supports Call for Royal Commission into the Future of Nuclear Power and Calls for New Mandate for Lepreau Committee

Conservation Council of New Brunswick

CCNB Action endorses the call made today by the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility for all federal political parties to support the creation of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Future of Nuclear Power in Canada in the wake of the nuclear disaster in Japan.

"The nuclear disaster unfolding in Japan occurred after the reactors were actually shut down. It is unimaginable what would have happened if the nuclear chain reaction had continued," said Raphael Shay, Climate and Energy Coordinator for CCNB Action.

The environmental advocacy group is also calling on Premier David Alward to immediately broaden the mandate of the NB Select Committee on Point Lepreau to examine the future of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generation Station in light of the massive releases of radioactive elements in Japan.

In heavily censored minutes of NB Power's Executive Refurbishment and Nuclear Oversight Committees obtained by CCNB through the Right to Information and Privacy Protection Act, the environmental group learned that NB Power plans to delay unanticipated repair work until after the refurbished reactor operates for a year once it comes back on-line. It turns out condensor tubes need to be replaced to avoid corroding the plant's boilers with leaking sea water that is constantly drawn into the plant from the Bay of Fundy when the power plant is operating.

"Given what is unfolding in Japan, and in the face of NB Power's continuing secrecy about the refurbishment, we think the Premier has an obligation to New Brunswickers to have the Select Committee tear away the shroud from Point Lepreau and put the nuclear power plant under the microscope of public scrutiny," said Shay. "We are only getting part of the story when it comes to the refurbishment, " complains Shay.

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