

January 19, 2011
Point Lepreau Decommissioning Caucus

Pointless Lepreau Reappears in New Brunswick

White Elephant Symbolizes What the Province Doesn't Want to Talk About

The Point Lepreau nuclear generating station provides the quintessential definition of a white elephant.

The aging nuclear plant opened its doors three times over budget in 1983. The Energy and Utilities Board refused to support spending on refurbishing it beyond its expected lifetime, but politicians went ahead anyway. Today, costs for the touch-and-go overhaul are already over \$1.4 billion. The latest guess at a completion date is May 2012, a delay of almost three years. Damage to public and worker health and the environment have yet to be calculated and the final costs for taxpayers may not end for generations.

An alliance of public interest groups in New Brunswick, known as the Point Lepreau Decommissioning Caucus, is spreading a simple, but powerful message: Point Lepreau is a white elephant, we don't need it. Pointless Lepreau is old, sickly and on its last legs: Do Not Resuscitate.

To underline the foolishness of refurbishing Lepreau, the groups are holding surprise events featuring their newest member, an actual white elephant costume aptly named Pointless Lepreau.

This Elephant in the NB Legislature is so big the new Energy Commission isn't even allowed to talk about it, forcing politicians to setup a separate panel for it alone. Pointless Lepreau is so big that New Brunswick courtrooms can't hold it, so the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has to hold hearings about it in Ottawa, where New Brunswickers can't hear just how bad it is.

The Pointless Lepreau white elephant symbolizes how no one wants to talk about it. You can expect to be seeing it around the province, reminding us all that we do not need what it stands for.

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