

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

March 2, 2021

Ms. Lisa McBride
President
Women in Nuclear Canada
canada@womeninnuclear.org

Dear Ms. McBride:

The Prime Minister's Office has forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence of December 4, 2020, on which I was copied, regarding your support for small modular reactors (SMRs) in New Brunswick.

I commend Women in Nuclear's continued efforts to implement SMRs in support of our transition to a low-carbon economy. We were pleased to receive Women in Nuclear's contributions to the SMR Action Plan.

We believe that Canada has what it takes to be a world leader in the emerging global SMR market estimated to exceed \$150-300 billion per year by 2040. For this reason, we worked with you to develop Canada's SMR Roadmap in 2018 and Canada's SMR Action Plan, outlining the progress and ongoing efforts to advance SMRs across Canada. Thank you for speaking at the SMR Action Plan's launch on December 17, 2020. Your participation in the event provided a valuable contribution to Natural Resources Canada's objectives to advance this important work, and we look forward to our continued collaboration.

As you noted in your correspondence, nuclear energy is an important part of Canada's current clean energy mix, and it will continue to play a key role in achieving Canada's low-carbon future. Nuclear energy is the second-largest source of non-emitting electricity in Canada after hydro, and currently provides about 15% of national electricity generation, including 38% of electricity generated in New Brunswick and almost 60% of Ontario's electricity.

New Brunswick, as you mentioned, is an important player in Canada's nuclear industry. In the pan-Canadian approach for SMRs in Canada, New Brunswick is leading the development of on-grid advanced SMRs (often referred to as "Stream 2") for deployment in the 2030 plus timeframe. These advanced SMR designs have the potential to recycle fuel and reduce nuclear waste. New Brunswick has committed to working with ARC Nuclear Canada Incorporated and Moltex Energy on these advanced reactor designs. There is

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interest to create a New Brunswick-based advanced SMR cluster, and we received over half a dozen contributions to the SMR Action Plan from New Brunswick, including the Government of New Brunswick and NB Power, as well as non-profit organizations, and industry.

The Government of Canada believes a successful transition to a low-carbon future will depend on our ability to harness all possible talent. Studies have repeatedly shown that diversity, including having more women at the table, brings better results. Yet, energy remains one of the least gender-balanced sectors in the global economy. In Canada, women represent only 25% of the clean energy workforce, and less than 20% of the nuclear sector's workforce. To ensure that the low-carbon transition is equitable and inclusive, the Government of Canada co-launched the Equal by 30 Campaign in 2018, in an effort to advance the participation of women in clean energy, globally. We recognize that Women in Nuclear continues to be a valuable partner in this campaign.

Thank you for your interest in this important opportunity for Canada. I look forward to continuing to work with you, and I trust that you will remain safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seamus O'Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan Jr., P.C., M.P.