



MAR - 4 2021

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

Dear Ms. McBride:

Thank you for your correspondence of December 4, 2020, conveying the support of Women in Nuclear Canada for advanced Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in New Brunswick. I regret the delay in responding.

As the Government of Canada has stated on multiple occasions, clean, non-emitting electricity systems are the cornerstone of a modern economy. Nuclear energy is an important part of Canada's current clean electricity mix and will continue to play a key role for decades to come. Innovation in the nuclear sector plays a critical role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and delivering good, middle-class jobs as this country moves toward a low-carbon future.

With the potential to provide non-emitting energy for a wide range of applications, SMRs could be the future of Canada's nuclear industry. As you are likely aware, numerous provincial partners, including the Government of New Brunswick, have expressed a clear interest in utilizing these technologies to reduce emissions, decarbonize heavy industry, and spur economic development. The Government of Canada has committed to work with interested parties, including Indigenous communities and organizations, to advance this important work.

This collaboration to advance new nuclear technologies was highlighted in the federal government's strengthened climate plan, A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy (www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/climate-plan/healthy_environment_healthy_economy_plan.pdf). The plan underlined that SMRs have the potential to reduce emissions, decarbonize heavy industry and spur economic development. Following the announcement of this climate plan, the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, released a national SMR action plan on December 18, 2020, which responds to the 53 recommendations identified in the country's SMR roadmap launched in November 2018. Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan seeks to advance safe and responsible development and deployment of SMRs through

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a pan-Canadian approach in partnership with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous Peoples, organized labour, utilities, industry, innovators, academia and civil society (<https://smractionplan.ca>).

With more than 60 years of science and technology innovation, a world-class regulator and a vibrant domestic supply chain, Canada's nuclear industry is poised to be a leader in an emerging global market.

I appreciate your taking the time to write on this topic, and I encourage Women in Nuclear Canada to continue its engagement in this country's transition to a low-carbon future.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wilkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.