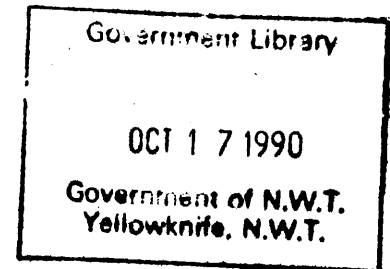


Brian E. Weir, P. Geol.,
Box 1975,
Yellowknife, NWT.
X1A 2P5
Oct. 15, 1990

The Hon. Jake Epp,
Minister of Energy Mines & Resources,
580 Booth Street,
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0E4



Dear Mr. Minister:

re: the showing of the National Film Board film "Uranium"

I am writing you after viewing the film last night in Yellowknife, at it's second public showing.

The documentary is a blatant anti-uranium, anti-business, anti-government propaganda film. It is to be shown tomorrow in Baker Lake, the centre of the Kiggavik uranium mine debate. This film is not designed to inform, but rather to incense the native community against whites and their "system".

Considering where the next viewings are to be, I object strongly to:

- 1) a government sponsored travelling circus under the guise of the National Film Board, which in the film and in the panel discussion later, accuse the Atomic Energy Board and the regulatory agencies of favouritism, incompetence, deceit and lying. I believe the comments made by Mr. Dale Phillips the producer and Dr. Jim Harding the consultant, to be, or on the verge of being, libellous. They are bound to make the government look like a ship of untrustworthy fools to the Baker Lake natives. As you know, the natives already have little confidence in the FEARD process.

- 2) a tax-payer sponsored side show extolling an emotional, irresponsible, narrow-minded and largely incorrect version of a sensitive subject that requires sober thought based on scientific evidence, not on whimsey and rhetoric.

- 3) an anti-uranium consultant, Dr. Jim Harding travelling to these viewings (and I presume paid) with the NFB and only inviting industry representation at the last moment. The NWT Chamber of Mines was invited by telephone on Thursday morning for the Sunday evening panel discussion.

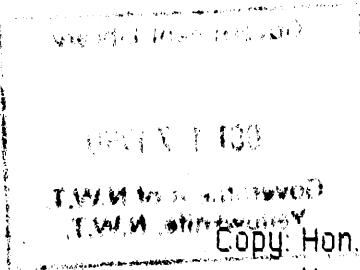
How can you as Minister, allow one government group to go into Baker Lake, with an apparent agenda of fomenting anti-nuclear and racist feelings, and publically make damning and, I trust, false accusations against the Atomic Energy Board and the nuclear regulatory agencies?

I believe that the NFB's actions are reprehensible and libellous use of public funds for narrow-minded and self-centred purposes!

Yours truly,

Brian E. Weir

Brian E. Weir, P. Geol.



Copy: Hon. Marcel Masse
Hon. Ethel Blondin
Hon. Nellie Cournoyea
HON. GORDON WRAY
FRANCIS MACEROLA, NFB



3 1936 00004 754 6

Box 1975, Yellowknife,
N.W.T. X1A 2P5
15 October, 1990

The Honourable Ethel Blondin,
M.P. for the Western Arctic,

Dear Ms. Blondin, re Uranium, an N.F.B. film, and nuclear energy

Last night I attended the second showing of the a/n film and the question period with the Government-sponsored panel accompanying this on its Canadian Tour. This movie said its director was a deliberate effort to show that the uranium mines have dumped tailings into water systems on which groups of native Canadians have depended, and that few others care. In effect, it is a scaremongering, racist diatribe purposing that radioactive resources should be put to no use whatever because the dangers [which I know are really very modest compared with those of coal mining production and use] outweigh the probable benefits. The makers admitted to us that this film had been turned down by "the Nature of Things" CBC TV Programme.

I wonder how many among us at the showing in Yellowknife had benefitted already from dental and medical x-rays revealing needs for treatment, or enjoyed the relief of finding out that the body parts x-rayed were sound, after all? How many of us (beside the one I know of) owed their attendance to radiology treatments received for cancer or T.B.? How many of us had ever eaten an irradiated sandwich from a dispenser or cooler, confident of enjoying a nutritious snack with no ill effects? How many of us realize that pipelines can't be built without radiation - it is used to detect cracks in the welded pipes. Important metal components in machinery are all tested for cracks using x-ray technology.

What more I want to happen is for all of us to make responsible, co-operative progress toward nuclear generated electricity for heating our northern homes. Wind and solar power is good in some places in the United States but it is too intermittent for us. Our days are pretty short in winter to charge up enough solar energy to last all night even if everyone could afford the special architecture. It takes two or three solar panels just to charge up a twelve volt battery to run a T.V. As our population is growing fast, our forests are not inexhaustible. The smoke isn't good for us, either. Oil is presently becoming scarcer and more expensive. Is the Federal Government trying to prevent the home-heating benefits to Northerners by sponsoring this divisive movie? Is paranoia contagious? -- A panellist, one of those in the screen credits, Dr. Jim Harding, told us he suspected the Government of concealing Swedish solar technology from Canadians [available on magazine racks in Yellowknife for several years, Harrowsmith, etc.] Interestingly, my Atlas shows that Sweden's winter is generally warmer than the N.W.T. winter, and that there is at least one nuclear energy producing plant within 100 miles of Stockholm.

Finally, on a risk level list that I read last week, Heart Disease, Cancer and Smoke were among the most common causes of death whereas Uranium hazards are about .02 on the scale. Fresh ground peanut butter is .5! (because of a mold called aflatoxin B which was featured in a spot on the CBC TV Journal last week.) I'll continue to eat peanut butter 3 or 4 times a week for the rest of my life, probably, as I have for almost 50 years!

Please tell this Government to "get real" and to get uranium working for us Northerners as safely, co-operatively and efficiently as possible.

CC: Hon Brian Lewis,
MLA for Yellowknife Center
The Hon. Gordon Wray
The Hon. Nellie Courtenay

Yours truly,

Alma B. Weir,
Teachers Aide
J.H. Sissons School
for 15 years.