

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

May 6, 2020

Mr. Charles Rhodes, P.Eng., Ph.D.
Xylene Power Limited
cslrhodes@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 10, 2020, regarding Canada's energy transition and the importance of nuclear energy as an important part of Canada's clean energy mix. I appreciate you sharing your concerns.

This is an unprecedented time as the world tries to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and limit its human and economic impacts. We assure you that all levels of government, regardless of political stripes, are working together to ensure Canadians have the vital support they need, when they need it and where they need it.

I agree with you that major investments in clean technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are essential to Canada's energy transition. As the world addresses a changing climate, nuclear power is poised to provide the next wave of clean, affordable, safe, and reliable power. Our government sees SMRs as a tool to reduce global emissions, as well as a potential source of good jobs, timely innovation, and new economic opportunities across the country. Canada has a long history in nuclear energy, and SMRs could represent an opportunity for us to be a leader in the nuclear energy industry of the future.

These reasons led Natural Resources Canada to convene the SMR Roadmap process to engage stakeholders on priorities and challenges related to the possible development and deployment of SMRs in Canada. In 2018, interested provinces, territories and power utilities led an engagement process with industry and potential end users, including Indigenous and Northern communities. The report of the stakeholder-led SMR Roadmap, released in November 2018, can be found at www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/energy-sources-distribution/nuclear-energy-uranium/canadian-small-modular-reactor-roadmap/21183.

In the fall of 2020, the Government of Canada will launch a SMR Action Plan with provincial and territorial governments, industry, and other partners. The SMR Action Plan will build on the momentum of Canada's SMR Roadmap as well as the existing Memorandum of Understanding between Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick on SMRs.

Our government understands the need to engage Canadians on the implications of climate change and the future of Canada's energy system. That is why, in 2017, we launched the Generation Energy dialogue, which gave Canadians across the country the opportunity to participate in a conversation on our energy future. Canadians told us they want to play an active role in building Canada's low-carbon energy future, with leadership and action coming from all parts of society. The results from Generation Energy (report available at www.nrcan.gc.ca/20380) continue to inform our path to net-zero emissions and our work to create a clean, reliable, and affordable energy system.

Canada

Climate change and energy transition present us with an opportunity to build a more sustainable, inclusive, and competitive economy than ever before. We are confident that the actions we are taking together will help us build a prosperous, low-carbon future for Canada.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter and I trust that you are safe and healthy during this unprecedented period.

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, P.C., M.P.