



Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

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June 21, 2023

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
by email: jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca

Re: Government Response to the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) entitled “Small Modular Nuclear Reactors”

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

We read with interest the government response to the Small Modular Nuclear Reactors report and have a question: **Will the government commit to ensuring that all future applications for federal funding for SMR R&D undergo rigorous scientific review?**

We noted that the government response outlined four sources of federal funding for SMR R&D but that your commitment to scientific review applies to only the two smallest in value: the Enabling SMR Program and the NSERC-NRCan partnership program.

In contrast, you made no similar commitment of rigorous scientific review for the two largest sources of SMR R&D funding: ISED's Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), which to date has given \$94.7 million for R&D on three SMR projects, and the Canada Infrastructure Bank which gave \$970 million for R&D on Ontario Power Generation's Darlington New Nuclear Project. [Concerns were raised](#) with the SRSR committee about the lack of scientific review for applications to the SIF program.

In closing, we draw your attention to a [statement](#) on the website of the Canadian Environmental Law Association signed by more than 120 civil society, public interest, faith-based and Indigenous groups, including CRED-NB, calling on the government to stop funding small nuclear reactor development and to release the research and data that support its rationale to fund SMRs.

We look forward to your response to this request at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ann McAllister, Chair
Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick