



Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick
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Standing Committee on Natural Resources
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
By e-mail: RNNR@parl.gc.ca

**Brief for the RNNR Study:
Management of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories by U.S. Companies**

Introduction to CRED-NB

The Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick (CRED-NB), a volunteer community-based organization formed in May 2020, provides education to the public and advocates for responsible energy development to address the climate crisis. CRED-NB represents more than 20 citizen groups and businesses and more than 150 individuals across New Brunswick, listed on our website: <https://crednb.ca/about/>

Background

Since our formation, CRED-NB has been concerned about the link between civilian nuclear power and nuclear weapons. We have submitted letters and briefs to both federal and provincial governments on this topic. We have testified before legislative committees in Fredericton and Ottawa to raise concerns about plans by a New Brunswick based company, Moltex Energy, to reprocess used fuel from the CANDU reactor at Point Lepreau. Experts agree that nuclear fuel reprocessing – which extracts plutonium from high-level nuclear waste – increases nuclear weapons proliferation risks. We raised these concerns previously to the RNNR committee in our submission on October 3, 2023, for your study on Canada’s clean energy plans in the context of North American energy transformation.

Now our concerns about the link between civilian nuclear energy and nuclear weapons are again raised by the recent contract for a consortium of U.S. companies to manage Canadian Nuclear Laboratories.



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CRED-NB's Concerns

A consortium of U.S. companies, Nuclear Laboratories Partners of Canada Inc., manages Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) since late 2025, after signing a government contract worth \$24 billion over 20 years. Obviously, Canada is not a nuclear weapons state, but the U.S. is.

An overarching concern is that as a private consortium, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is not subject to the *Access to Information Act* (ATIA) that gives Canadians the right to request and access records from Canadian federal government institutions. The ATIA promotes democratic transparency and accountability, while balancing public right-to-know with necessary exemptions for sensitive information.

CNL is currently developing the Advanced Nuclear Materials Research Centre which, among other activities, is conducting research on materials such as tritium and plutonium that could be used in weapons manufacturing. We understand these are sensitive activities. However, given CNL's exemption from the *Access to Information Act*, Canadians – including Members of Parliament – have no legal means to request information about any potential links between CNL activities and U.S. military research and weapons development.

For context to our concerns, consider the current geopolitical situation. Almost unbelievably, the U.S. President is currently threatening Denmark, a NATO ally, with military action. Earlier, in October 2025, President Trump announced via his social media site Truth Social that the U.S. would “start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis [with other nations].” U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright later stated that the President was referring to conducting “subcritical” tests in response to similar ones that the Russians have carried out. A subcritical test skirts, but doesn’t violate, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

The unpredictable behaviour of the U.S. administration – threatening a NATO member and announcing a new policy that skirts a long-standing and vital international nuclear weapons control agreement – raises alarm bells when considering that several of the companies now running CNL have connections to the weapons industry.

One of the companies in the new CNL consortium is BWXT (BWXT Technologies). BWXT builds components and fuel for the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarines and carriers and manages U.S. nuclear complex sites, including nuclear weapons stockpile stewardship, dismantlement, and developing advanced nuclear systems for defence and space, essentially providing the nuclear



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power foundation for U.S. military strength. BWXT recently bought the third company in the consortium, Kinectrics.

The second company, Amentum Environment and Energy Inc. provides extensive technical, engineering, and operational support to the U.S. military and defence sector. Among other activities, Amentum manages the Pantex Plant involved in nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly and the Y-12 National Security Complex that handles uranium components for weapons.

In addition, a principal subcontractor, Battelle Memorial Institute, supports the development and operational deployment of chemical, biological and explosives defence equipment, procedures, and capabilities. Battelle has deep historical and ongoing connections to nuclear weapons programs, including direct contributions to the Manhattan Project and management of key national laboratories involved in weapons research.

Conclusion

How will we know if these CNL companies are conducting research at Chalk River that they could use or transfer later for U.S. military purposes? We won't know.

We are concerned that the situation at Chalk River will raise legitimate questions about Canada's ability to maintain its position as a country that uses nuclear power only for civilian purposes.

We urge the MPs on the RNNR committee to probe the witnesses about the research activities at the CNL and the potential for the transfer of technology and know-how that could benefit U.S. defence and weapons research and technology in future.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Ann McAllister, Chair, CRED-NB