



IBEW
CANADA

KENNETH W. COOPER
International President
Président international

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FRATERNITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES OUVRIERS EN ÉLECTRICITÉ

RUSS SHEWCHUK

International Vice President / Vice-président international
First District, CANADA / Premier District, CANADA



FIOE
CANADA

PAUL NOBLE
International Secretary-Treasurer
Secrétaire-trésorier international



July 3, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2067, representing over 1,900 workers in Saskatchewan, this letter concerns the impending closure of coal power generation and the operationalization of small nuclear reactor (SMR) power generation.

The provincial coal power generation plants in Estevan and Coronach are slated to be shuttered due to federal environmental regulations. While the environmental goals of these regulations are laudable, a federal timing exemption is required in Saskatchewan to ensure a responsible transition to nuclear power generation. If this federal exemption is not granted, some 1,000 IBEW members will lose their jobs and their livelihoods, and this will devastate not only their families but their communities.

These power plants are the lifeblood of their communities. The closure of these plants without ensuring that the new SMRs are operational will lead to a mass exodus of skilled workers away from the community without the certainty of new employment. In anticipation of this closure, workers will start taking measures to sell their homes and relocate their families in pursuit of opportunities elsewhere. Even the projected closure of the plant will cause harm to the community.

The reasons for this misalignment are obvious: SMR technology is new and significant time is required to research, review, and build the new SMRs. The practical timeline to ramp up SMR power generation does not align with the federal government's environmental regulations. It is IBEW's understanding that the new SMRs will be fully operational – sustaining full employment – by 2042. However, federal government environmental regulations have mandated the full shut down of the coal power plants by 2030. The prospect of significant unemployment being caused by the closure while out-of-province power is brought in to address the gap in power generation demonstrates that a more optimal solution is needed.

As such, the most practical solution is for the federal government to grant the province of Saskatchewan an extension until such time as SMR's are operational, to ensure full employment for provincial power workers while coal power is phased out and nuclear power is phased in.

IBEW Canada calls upon the federal government to do right by these workers and grant Saskatchewan an exemption to extend coal power operations until such time as SMR's are fully operational. This exemption will ensure that the province can establish and ramp up nuclear power in the province, ensuring the protection of our environment, our communities, and our workers.

It is imperative that this historic Saskatchewan energy transition is managed in a way that does not harm those who have supported Saskatchewan's energy sector for decades. Prime Minister, this is about protecting the jobs, livelihoods and health of Saskatchewan's unionized energy workers, as well as their families and communities. The impact on local businesses, families, and the mental health and safety of workers will be disastrous if these steps are not taken. We urge you to take this matter seriously and await a favourable response.

Sincerely,

Russ Shewchuk
International Vice President - The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, First District (Canada)

CC: The Honourable Scott Moe, M.L.A., Premier of Saskatchewan