

Jane Beecroft,



23 January 2015

Customer Service,
Ontario Energy Board,
2300 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario,
M4P 1E4

RECEIVED

JAN 27 2015

ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Re: EB-2014-0370

Dear Board Members and Staff,

You published a notice in today's *Toronto Star* calling for public input regarding an application by the Ontario Power Generation for another rate increase, but your advertisement did not give any mailing address, and the sole telephone number provided required more than fifteen minutes of button-punching and redialing to listen (in French and English) to computerized, repetitious, useless messages until your system allowed the caller to speak with a staff member who had nothing to do with the advertisement or process but who provided the Yonge Street address. This is an appalling demonstration of how you block public input and how grandiosely you waste public funds and patience - not to mention your own credibility.

That you would seriously entertain a request for higher rates from a body as notorious as your own for supporting a "sunshine list" while giving away power free of charge to Americans - power which has been paid for by Ontario's citizens who do not receive equivalent benefits - or even small benefits - is unacceptable. Both OAB and OPG are best advised to eliminate the beneficiaries on each sunshine list and reduce the numbers of "managers" to a small streamlined and efficient number in each case (think of the money *that* would save!) and invite the general public to recommend cost savings throughout the province. The general public should also be invited to recommend how both the OEB and OPG should deal with their own waste (including nuclear) and how to stop savaging the environment and ornamenting every landscape in the province with poles, lines, and other equipment which repeatedly fail and cost a great deal to replace. To that end, I enclose an article copied for the same issue of the *Toronto Star*. The state of the planet is profoundly serious. . .

The third paragraph of your advertisement referred to serving the *public interest* which is properly defined as **"the greatest good for the greatest number."** The OEB and OPG both affect the general public but instead **use** the public to blatantly serve their own internal interests. Any increase in what the general public is asked to pay to support these bloated bodies is morally wrong and politically outrageous.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Beecroft".

cc: Premier Kathleen Wynne

Midnight is nigh on Doomsday Clock

Climate change, nuclear threat force bulletin to push hands closest to disaster since 1984

OLIVIA WARD
FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPORTER

2015
23.1.2015

The Apocalypse isn't now. But it's two minutes closer.

For the first time in three years the hands of the Doomsday Clock have moved forward, and now point at only three minutes to midnight. The move brings them the closest they have been to the ultimate man-made catastrophe since 1984.

On Thursday, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said the decision was prompted by two overwhelming threats to "civilization as we know it" — global warming and an accidental or intentional explosion of a nuclear bomb.

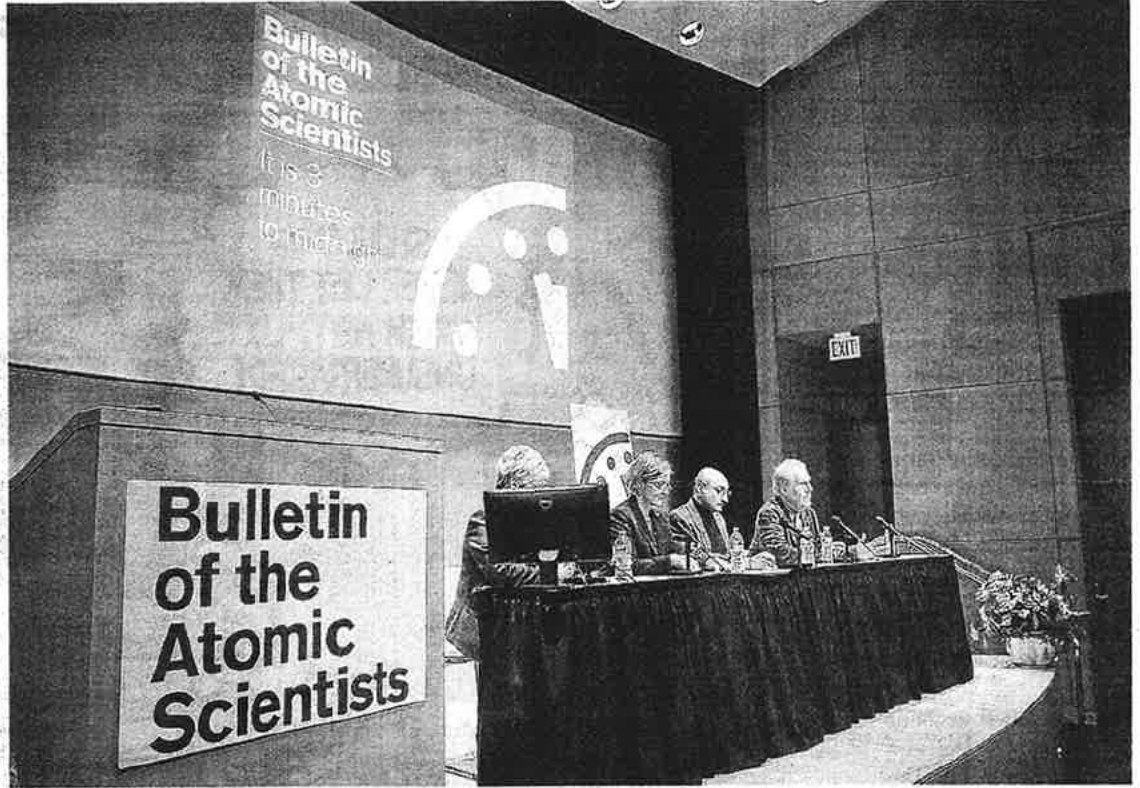
"Today, unchecked climate change and a nuclear arms race resulting from modernization of huge arsenals pose extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity," said the bulletin's executive director, Kennette Benedict.

"World leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe. These failures of leadership endanger every person on Earth."

The doomsday decisions are made by the bulletin's board of directors and a board of sponsors that includes physics wizard Stephen Hawking and 17 Nobel laureates, among them Toronto's John Polanyi.

The bulletin was founded in 1945 by a group of University of Chicago scientists who helped to develop the atomic bomb, but came to fear its threat to the world's future. At the time, the face-off between the rapidly arming U.S. and Soviet Union was the biggest global danger.

But since then, climate change has come to the fore. The bulletin first warned of its perils in 2007, calling it a "dire challenge to humanity," in which "damage to ecosystems is already taking place; flooding, destructive storms, increased drought and polar ice melt are causing loss of life and property."



WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

A stunning threat to "civilization as we know it" prompted the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' decision Thursday.

This year it amped up its alarm, as President Barack Obama told Americans in his state of the union address that "no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." The increasingly conservative U.S. Senate voted 98-1 for an amendment declaring climate change to be real, and not a hoax.

The bulletin's scientists laid the blame for climate change squarely on world leaders' failure to act

The bulletin's scientists laid the blame squarely on world leaders for falling far short of goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Failure to act will "harm millions of people and threaten many key ecological systems on which civilization relies," said Richard Somerville, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at University of California, San Diego. He called on leaders to take "co-ordinated and rapid action to drastically cut global emissions of heat-trapping gases."

But nuclear weapons still pose major dangers, said proliferation expert Sharon Squassoni of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Post-Cold War optimism that the nuclear arms race could be kept in check has "essentially evaporated" due to "sweeping nuclear weapons modernization programs and a disarmament machinery that has ground to a halt," she said.

Meanwhile, in an age of rampant electronic hacking, the security of the deadly arms is in doubt. Their growing complexity also makes it harder to adequately safeguard them from accidents.

Although the Doomsday Clock's focus has broadened from its early days, it is still an icon for the anti-nuclear movement. And it inspired the rock group Smashing Pumpkin's song of the same name, ending:

The Doomsday Clock ticking in my heart

These lonely days when will they ever stop

This ticking in my heart
Is everyone afraid?

Tick, tick, tick

1947: The Doomsday Clock was launched at seven minutes to midnight, a warning of looming nuclear peril.



1953: The hands came closest, two minutes to midnight, when the U.S. and the Soviet Union tested hydrogen bombs.



1991: The clock was farthest from doom, at 17 minutes to midnight, when presidents George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Agreement to cut nuclear arsenals.



2015: The hands are at three minutes to midnight due to global warming and the continuing nuclear arms race.



SOURCE: Bulletin of Atomic Scientists
TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC