

Duncan Hawthorne's Introduction of Robin Jeffrey

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you someone described as “a passionate advocate of nuclear power” and whose vision and dedication has greatly influenced the nuclear landscape in the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the resurgence of nuclear energy generation in Canada. He is recognized for his instrumental role in the renaissance of nuclear power, which began in the late 1990's.

I can think of no more deserving recipient of the Canadian Nuclear Association's prestigious International Award than Dr Robin Jeffrey.

An engineer by training, Robin knew that in order for nuclear power to have a viable future, the industry had to see nuclear power as a business rather than as an ideology. He believed – and he demonstrated – that in a competitive electricity market and with a level playing field, nuclear power could successfully compete against other forms of generation.

Robin Jeffrey's leadership was instrumental in dramatically improving the performance of the UK's nuclear power stations. I'd like to share with you an excerpt from the nomination support letter sent by Sir James Hann, the former Chairman of Scottish Nuclear who hired Robin in 1992 to be Chief Executive of a company that was facing enormous pressures to become a commercial entity. I quote:

My task [as Chairman of Scottish Nuclear] was to make the company viable in the first instance and later to make it privatisable. My ultimate boss was Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister at that time in our history. During the early part of that exercise it became clear to me and the Board that we needed to appoint a new Chief Executive ...and to cut a long story short, Dr Jeffrey was chosen for the role, from a number of qualified contenders, BECAUSE HE WAS CLEARLY THE BEST. He joined in 1992, and from that time, worked tirelessly for the company and the wider Nuclear Industry in the U.K. As a result of his work and leadership, Scottish Nuclear moved from losses to profit, and from being regarded in a rather poor light, to becoming one of the best nuclear generating companies in Europe.

Another nomination support letter echoes the sentiments expressed by Sir James. This one, from Kevin Routledge of NNC . . . Kevin writes . . . and I quote

Robin Jeffrey has made an outstanding contribution to the UK nuclear industry, from his role in the construction of Torness Nuclear Power Station to later more elevated roles in Scottish Nuclear Ltd., and British Energy. Robin showed immense leadership in driving the Torness Project, and the operation of the Station has been a credit to the quality of his input. In his subsequent role as Chief Executive of Scottish Nuclear, Robin was responsible for year on year improvements in the performance of the Torness and Hunterston plants, in a general regulatory environment that made such improvements require particularly focussed leadership. Robin's vision was the key to the successful entry of British Energy into the North American market, and the success of the

transaction to lease the Bruce Power plants from Ontario Power Generation was again due to his tireless commitment, his focus and business acumen.

End quote

Robin Jeffrey's vision was responsible for the first private-sector sale of a nuclear power station . . . Three Mile Island. This transaction was recognized by the prestigious Financial Times Global Energy Award for Boldest Successful Investment Decision of 1999. The creation of AmerGen – a joint venture to acquire US nuclear power plants spurred a transformation in the nuclear landscape in that country. On September 13th 1999, the Wall Street Journal coined the term “nuclear renaissance” in an article about the Three Mile Island transaction. It read:

“Nuclear energy, once given up for dead, is making a comeback. Not long ago, nuclear energy looked headed for extinction. Those days are over . . . with production costs dropping and regulations for fossil fuel burning plants rising there's a renaissance taking place in nuclear power that would have been unthinkable five years ago.”

Robin Jeffrey's determination created the opportunity that spawned Bruce Power and has led to a revitalization of nuclear power in Canada. The Bruce Power transaction received a Gold Award from the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships for “Excellence and Innovation in Infrastructure” and received the Financial Times Global Energy Award for “Successful Investment Decision of the Year” of 2001.

Robin Jeffrey had great confidence in the robustness of the Candu technology and believed that his simple philosophy of “Achieving through People” could transform the safety and operational performance of the Bruce units and demonstrate that safety and commercial success go hand in hand. He was right.

Bob Van Adel, president of AECL, also supported the nomination of Robin Jeffrey for this Award. In this letter Bob remarked . . . and I quote:

I would like to endorse the nomination of Dr. Robin Jeffrey for this award. My reasons are simple and based on the total respect and admiration for an individual who has helped shape the future of nuclear power in this country and internationally.

As the President and CEO of AECL, I know that success in the nuclear energy sector is based on a clear vision of the promises nuclear energy holds, and the courage and conviction to deliver on that promise. Dr. Robin Jeffrey had the vision and the courage to privatize the nuclear electricity sector in the UK at a time when people said it couldn't be done. After privatizing British Energy, Robin Jeffrey took his vision to North America, where he was the first to negotiate the sale of a nuclear power plant to the private sector. That was Three Mile Island. Here in Canada, Robin Jeffrey spearheaded the formation of Bruce Power, and the divestiture of the Bruce nuclear plant by OPG through a long-term lease to Bruce Power. Turning his attention back to the UK, he has also been the architect of the “replace nuclear with nuclear” strategy, which led the UK government to keep the option for nuclear open in its recent White Paper on energy policy.

For these reasons, I am pleased to endorse wholeheartedly the nomination of Dr. Robin Jeffrey for the CNA's International award. In doing so, I know that I represent the views of many others in AECL and the broader Canadian nuclear industry.

End quote

Robin Jeffrey has been a tireless promoter of nuclear power. His ability to relate to all types of people and articulate the nuclear message clearly and in plain English has built confidence amongst his peers, stakeholders, legislators, and skeptics. A firm believer in the value of opening a dialogue on nuclear with advocates and opponents alike, Robin Jeffrey knows his facts, can tell the nuclear story, and is recognized for the integrity of his approach and his passion for securing nuclear power's future.

Robin Jeffrey deserves recognition for what he has contributed to the advancement of nuclear power in the international arena. He is indeed a worthy recipient of this award.