

March 14, 2011

An open letter to our community
From Chief Nuclear Officer Wayne Robbins

Our thoughts go out to the people of Japan and relatives here in Canada in this terrible time. Ontario Power Generation will be launching an employee fundraising campaign in support of the earthquake and Tsunami victims.

Over the weekend we have heard from many of you with messages of support for OPG and for our colleagues in Japan. Some of you have also provided us valuable feedback you have heard from your friends, neighbours and constituents with questions about our operations in light of the recent events at the Japanese nuclear facilities. We really appreciate your efforts to keep us informed on the pulse of the community.

While it is premature to draw conclusions from the tragedy in Japan with regard to nuclear energy programs here in Canada and elsewhere in the world; there is some information I thought might be helpful to share with you today.

Japan is facing what literally can be considered a “worst case” natural disaster beyond anything we would ever need to manage here in Ontario. This is not just OPG’s opinion. It is based on many studies from many credible organizations. On our website, opg.com, we provide you with some of these organizations’ links.

It’s important to remember that a number of independent studies have confirmed that Durham Region is an area of low seismic risk. Many other studies have demonstrated that our reactors are robust in design and are able to withstand large seismic events.

Accidents are considered highly unlikely based on the rigorous procedures and redundant safety and shutdown systems, which use multiple methods to address any potential issue. In fact our facilities are built to specific nuclear seismic qualification and design procedures through the Canadian Standards Association.

Our plants are designed to ensure many concurrent events happening together would not impact our ability to safely operate and shutdown. However, we use a highly-conservative and precautionary approach to safety. As such, OPG has well-planned and practiced emergency responses in place. These are coordinated with provincial and local emergency agencies and responders and are practised regularly. And in recent

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years, we have upgraded and added to our backup emergency power generator systems.

OPG and our industry take our commitment to safe operation of nuclear energy facilities very seriously. Over the coming days, weeks, months and even years, the industry will incorporate lessons learned based on the Japanese experience to improve safety of our operations.

Japan's entire infrastructure is designed with recognition of the seismic volatility of that area, a known geologically-unstable region. And yet, the scale of this concurrent major earthquake and tsunami has challenged their bridges, residential and commercial buildings and other energy facilities such as oil refineries. That speaks to the magnitude of this natural disaster and its impact.

Nuclear power plants have proven their value to society in Japan, Canada, Europe, the United States and worldwide. They provide large amounts of carbon-free electricity on an around-the-clock basis, and they do so cost-effectively. Japan, Europe and North America have benefited greatly from nuclear energy; it has been instrumental in the nations' economic success over the past half century and our high standard of living.

Our hallmark as a global industry is to incorporate operating experience and lessons learned. When we fully understand the facts surrounding the events in Japan, we will use those insights to make nuclear energy even safer.

Over the coming days and weeks you can expect to hear many varying opinions on the events in Japan and even on our Canadian nuclear facilities. Some will be based on fact and will include worthwhile discussion that will make us better for the diversity of opinion that will certainly ensue. Unfortunately, some of what you will hear may not be based on fact.

Please call us anytime you are unsure and as always we commit to provide honest and transparent information to the best of our ability that will help you decide for yourself what the best answer is. We will continue to post information on our website as new questions are asked so please keep giving us your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne Robbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "R".

Wayne Robbins
Chief Nuclear Officer
Ontario Power Generation