

Neighbours

A part of the Pickering community since 1965 • Volume 7 • Number 1 • March 2001

PICKERING A ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

December 1997:	Four Pickering A reactors taken out of service
1998:	Completion of an Environmental Review with community consultation to identify biophysical issues
July 1999:	Determine studies needed to prepare EA; address 160+ issues from 1998 community consultation
Aug. – Dec. 1999:	Conduct field studies; communicate with stakeholders to identify public issues Identify possible environmental and socio-economic effects Identify measures to eliminate or manage environmental effects Determine significance of environmental effects after mitigation Propose monitoring and follow-up activities
Jan. – March 2000:	Formal submission of the draft EA to CNSC; review by CNSC and other federal and provincial agencies; Environment Canada, Health Canada, Ontario Ministry of the Environment
March 2000:	Final draft EA document submitted to CNSC
March – May 2000:	CNSC issues final draft EA document for public review
June – Dec. 2000:	Public submissions and presentations to CNSC
February 2001:	CNSC accepts Pickering A Environmental Assessment

CNSC Accepts Pickering A Environmental Assessment

Following an extensive review of the Pickering A Environmental Assessment (EA), the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has determined that returning Pickering A's four units to service is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. While approval to return the units to service is still required, the announcement points the way to restart one of the station's units by the end of the year.

In 1997, Pickering A was taken out of service to focus efforts and resources on improving performance and productivity at Pickering B. In order to return the "A" side to service, OPG was required to

carry out a full EA to examine possible environmental and socio-economic effects. This EA included a very thorough investigation in areas such as air, surface water, groundwater, earthquakes, land use and health and safety.

By determining that returning the units to service would not cause significant adverse impacts, the CNSC decision gives a green light to the extensive preparations necessary to begin returning Pickering A to service.

"With the acceptance of the EA, we will begin another phase in returning Pickering A to service," said OPG President and CEO Ron Osborne. "OPG is now required to complete a very comprehensive return-to-service work program that will include safety, environmental and reliability improvements, and start-up testing."

Key improvements will include new state-of-the-art fire detection systems around turbines, generators and control rooms; structural reinforcement of key equipment and systems to improve earthquake resistance; and elimination of equipment containing PCBs.

"Our community and our customers rely on OPG to provide a safe, clean, reliable and competitively-priced product," said Bob Strickert, Vice President of Site Support, who led OPG's Environmental Assessment efforts. "We're very pleased with the CNSC's decision because it represents an important step in our ability to fulfil these commitments to our customers, our shareholders and Ontario's industry."

Restart hearings before the CNSC are scheduled for June.

in this issue

OPG signs \$24M contract with local company

A new 10-year contract with Eco-Tec Corporation is good news for Pickering Nuclear and the local environment.

A strong future

Site Vice-President Brian MacTavish writes about the Environmental Assessment.

Employee profile

For Ken and Sue Hobbs
Pickering Nuclear is a family affair.





A word from our Site Vice-President

With the recent decision by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to accept the Pickering A Environmental Assessment (EA), it's time to look ahead and plan for a strong future at Pickering Nuclear.

In its review, the CNSC determined that Pickering A's return to service is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. However, the EA also includes commitments by OPG to implement a number of significant environmental and safety upgrades before Pickering A is returned to service. These will include:

- new state-of-the-art fire detection and suppression systems around turbines, generators and control room
- structural reinforcement of key equipment and systems to improve resistance to earthquakes
- improvements to prevent spills to the environment and to contain spills in the unlikely event that they should occur
- installation of stainless steel condensers to eliminate copper discharge into Lake Ontario
- elimination of equipment containing PCBs.

As we begin the next phase in returning Pickering A to service, we are committed to completing this and all other work within a framework of safety and environmental responsibility. We will also continue to build on the important community relationships that are a legacy of the Environmental Assessment. Open and honest dialogue will continue with the City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax and other stakeholders through public meetings and continued consultations.

This spring, we will hold another "Neighbourhood Walk," when OPG staff will again knock on doors to introduce themselves to members of the community and tell you what we're doing at OPG to serve you better. I would also like to invite you and your family to come to our annual Open House on Saturday, June 23, where you can see first-hand the improvements we are making. Take an in-plant tour of Pickering A and join us in the fun, games and outdoor barbecue we have planned.

My thanks to everybody in the community and at OPG who helped to make the EA happen.

Brian MacTavish

Year End Report Card

Pickering's performance for fourth quarter 2000 shows a dip in the overall measure of Nuclear Performance Index (NPI), but the Reactor Trip Rate and Radiation Dose to Public were both significantly better than target. As well, our environmental performance and workplace safety continue to meet target.

The NPI provides an overview of 11 key areas covering safety and production. The index is used by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) to measure performance of nuclear power plants worldwide.

In December, the reactor trip rate measured 0.7, which is better than both our target and the WANO standard of one trip per 7,000 hours of operation per year. As well, our environmental performance remains on target with zero preventable spills in 2000.

You can receive your own copy of our latest report card by phoning our Community Information Line at 905-837-7272 or visiting our website at www.ontariopowergeneration.com.

10 Year Contract Signed with OPG and Local Company



Seated: Ron Osborne, President & CEO OPG; Dr. Phillip Simons, President, CEO Eco-Tec; Stan Bibson, General Manager, Nalco Industrial Outsourcing. Standing: William Smith, VP Supply Services; Honourable Janet Ecker, MPP, Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, Minister of Education; Wayne Arthurs, Mayor of Pickering

Sometimes you can search the world and find the answer in your own back yard. On February 9, 2001, OPG signed a 10 year contract with a local company to provide Pickering Nuclear with a high-purity water treatment plant. Pickering's own Eco-Tec Corporation, a global leader in high-purity water treatment was chosen to design, build and maintain the new \$24 million system. The new plant is good news for the local environment

because it will reduce our need to use chemical treatments, increase the purity of the water returning to Lake Ontario and improve operating efficiency. The local economy gets a boost as well; all manufacturing will be done right here in Pickering.

OPG wanted the most environmentally friendly technology available for the new water-treatment facility at Pickering Nuclear. That's why we looked at companies around the world. OPG selected Eco-Tec based on the company's proven track record of providing reliable high-purity water treatment systems, its ability to successfully operate and maintain the treatment system and the operating savings obtained from its advanced system design.

"These new technologies should provide higher purity water at lower operating costs, while also improving our environmental performance by lowering our need to chemically treat the water," said Ron Osborne, President and CEO of Ontario Power Generation. "We initiated a world wide search for the best buy and the fact that we selected Eco-Tec, a Pickering company, makes this opportunity even more satisfying."

Raw water, originating from Lake Ontario, will be pre-treated using Eco-Tec's system. Commissioning of the system will be completed in May 2001.

Getting to Know...Ken & Sue Hobbs

For Ken and Sue Hobbs, Pickering Nuclear is a family affair. As a 24-year veteran of Pickering's mechanical maintenance department, Ken has witnessed many changes at OPG, including watching Pickering being built "from the ground up."

"I began my career here with an entry-level job as an apprentice mechanic," says Ken. "Over the years I think I've been in every level, from Union Trades Supervisor, to First Line Management Supervisor, to my current position as Pickering B's Maintenance Manager. I'm living proof that there are many opportunities for career advancement at OPG."

Ken's wife Sue Hobbs is quick to agree: after 15 years on the finance side of business at Pickering A, there is no hesitation when she says, "The company has been very good to me." Ken and Sue both grew up in the Pickering area and today reside in Whitby with their 13-year-old son James and 20-year-old daughter Tammi, a Dean's List student at Durham College. Ken laughs when he remembers that he was about the same age as Tammi when he joined Pickering A's "D" Crew after nine months of intensive training.

Ken worked with "D" Crew for 15 years and still has tremendous respect for the older men he worked and trained with. "They were real mentors to me," he says. "I was a 21-year-old mechanical maintainer apprentice, and they were the best people I ever worked for. They were a huge influence in my life."

Twenty-four years later, what goes around is coming around for Ken. "Recently, I met with a group of 17 young mechanics who had just been hired. It was incredibly refreshing to look at them and see myself from over 20 years ago. These young people came from places like Windsor and Sturgeon Falls, and when asked why they had joined OPG, they said the same thing: they believe this is a really good company to work for. My own opinion is that it's never boring. For example, just as we've completed our "fix the plant" initiative at Pickering B, we've received the good news about Pickering A coming back on line and everybody is looking forward to that."

Sue's career in Accounts Payable began in 1985 in Pickering's construction office, where she worked for four years before moving over to the Finance Unit on the Operations side. She is now an acting First Line Manager in the Finance department. With dual OPG careers, life is busy but the Hobbses still find time to keep each other up to date with frequent dinner dates.

When they're not working, family life and community involvement are their priorities. Ken has coached minor hockey for nine years, and will take up coaching duties on the baseball field this summer. Sue is a devoted hockey mom who "wouldn't miss a game for anything." Skiing and golfing take up any spare moments during winter and summer.

It's clear that the cup is more than half full for the Hobbses. "For anybody who wants them, opportunities are there for them at OPG," says Ken. "It's a fantastic place to work. You're going to have career lows and career highs, but I've been riding a pretty good high for just about my entire career. I'd recommend it to anybody."



In Brief

Spring Cleaning to begin

Later this spring, Pickering Nuclear will be starting some spring cleaning of its own. In our efforts to safely preserve the life of our assets, we will be embarking on a new chemical clean program for our boilers. (This is what makes the steam that propels the turbines that make the generators produce electricity!) Environmentally safe steam releases from the plant will signal this program is at work. Neighbouring residents of the station should watch their mailboxes over the next few weeks for more information on this new program at OPG.

New Building Construction

A new building for Pickering Nuclear on Brock Road is now under construction. This three-story building will be home to more than 450 employees and includes a lunchroom, records centre and extensive conference room capabilities. The building is scheduled for completion this fall.

OPG Helps Reduce Smog Levels

Nuclear energy accounts for almost half of OPG's overall generating mix, which

also includes hydro-electric and fossil generation. This unique mix of power sources allows us to generate 75 per cent of our electricity with no smog producing emissions. With warmer temperatures approaching, Ontario's smog levels will increase substantially. As one of the largest electricity producers in North America, we have significantly reduced emissions from our fossil-fuelled generating stations since the early 1980s and have a solid record of environmental improvements. While OPG's activities still affect air quality, at 6 per cent we are only a small part of the smog problem compared to transportation and industrial emissions from both within the province and nearby U.S. Overall, we are making further emission reductions each year.

In-House Artist

Pickering Nuclear is pleased to feature the artistic works of Pine Ridge Arts Council member Lori Ufniak. Lori, from Orono, mainly works with acrylic paints. You're invited to view her work, which is now on display in our Information Centre located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road.

Add a little OPG power to your event!



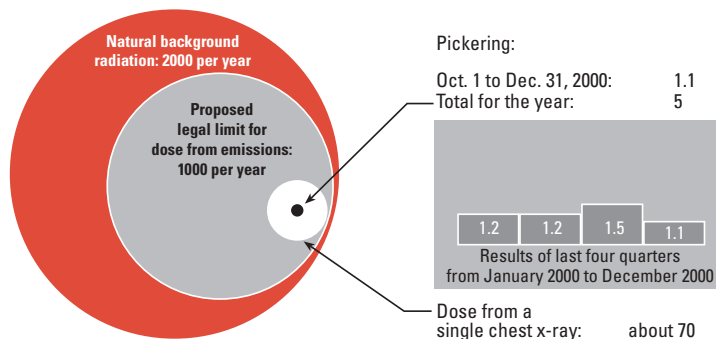
Ontario Power Generation's Community Event Cruiser will soon be on the road again with fun games, cool tunes and kids' prizes to win. All summer long we are planning to attend local sporting events, fundraisers, day camps, community programs and children's events in our community.

If you are an organizer planning a community event and would like to request our Event Cruiser for your function, give us a call. Our Cruiser is ready to hit the road and will be there free of charge.

Contact the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre at 905-837-7272 ext. 3719 to talk about the details. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

RADIATION INDEX

Radiation Dose Due to Emissions from Pickering Nuclear (Fourth Quarter 2000 Results)



Note: Dose is reported in microsieverts, an international unit used to measure radiation dose.

The Radiation Dose to the public is an estimate of the radiation dose people would receive if they lived just outside the station boundary at their residence 24 hours a day, drank local water and milk and ate local fish and produce. The doses were calculated using actual data from routine analysis of air, water, milk, fish and vegetation samples, as well as site emission data. The fourth quarter results were 5.1 microsieverts (an international unit of dose), which were 68 per cent better than the target of 16, and significantly better than the regulatory limit of 1,000 microsieverts.

Most people would actually receive less than the dose indicated because they have different eating habits or live farther from the station. Radiation dose decreases significantly as the distance from the station increases

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There's an Energy Generated in our Community

Recently, Pickering Nuclear provided support to these groups and organizations :

Big Brothers
Durham Business Advisory Centre
Local area indoor soccer associations
Local swimming and figure skating associations
Pickering Museum Village
Pickering Winterfest
Pickering, Ajax, Scarborough and Whitby Hockey Associations
Pine Ridge Arts Council
Ringette Associations
Variety Village

It's one that is filled with a powerful spirit and determination. It's a kind of energy Ontario Power Generation's Pickering Nuclear searches for and supports. That's why OPG and our employees who live in the community work with our neighbors to support various community organizations, events and teams.

As a company committed to sustainable development and an important employer in Pickering and the surrounding area, OPG takes its responsibility to be an active and good corporate citizen seriously. Our community commitment operates at both the corporate level and through the actions of our employees, who take great pride in their community. As evidence, one has only to look at their personal contribution of more than \$300,000 to our Charity Campaign.

At the corporate level, we strive to build on the foundation of social responsibility and caring established by employees. Our Corporate Citizenship Program provides financial and in-kind support to registered charities and not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental, educational and community initiatives.

We believe that through our Corporate Citizenship Program we are making a positive difference by putting our energy to good use.

Neighbours

Pickering Neighbours is published four times a year for the neighbours of Ontario Power Generation Pickering Nuclear.

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