

Neighbours

A part of the Pickering community since 1965 • Volume 8 • Number 2 • June 2002

OPG Proposes Expansion to Interim Waste Facility at Pickering Nuclear - Environmental Assessment Comes First

OPG invites the public to comment on its proposal to add a second phase to its interim nuclear waste management facility at Pickering Nuclear. The additional capacity for interim storage of used fuel is required to support the continued operation of the Pickering A and B stations to the end of their planned operating lives.

The proposed interim used fuel dry storage facility expansion is planned in two stages: Stage 1 to be in service by 2007, and Stage 2 by 2016.

The first step in the approval process for the interim storage expansion is to conduct an environmental assessment (EA). The EA will take a detailed look at potential environmental effects of the proposed facility expansion and will identify mitigation measures to prevent any significant adverse effects. The expansion of the existing waste management facility requires licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). And a prerequisite for licensing is the approval of an EA conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Canadian Environmental

Assessment Act (CEAA).

OPG expects to submit the EA to the CNSC in the fall of 2003. The CNSC is responsible for determining the type, scope and schedule for the EA. If the CNSC (or the federal Minister of the Environment, depending on the type of EA required) deems the EA to be acceptable after review, OPG will proceed with an application for license approval under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act to construct the proposed facilities.

Throughout the EA process, OPG will provide numerous opportunities to share information and seek comment from the public, community representatives and other stakeholders and respond to all stakeholder questions and concerns.

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Fire Services Agreement

OPG's Emergency Response Team, and the City of Pickering's Fire Services join forces.

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Employee Profile

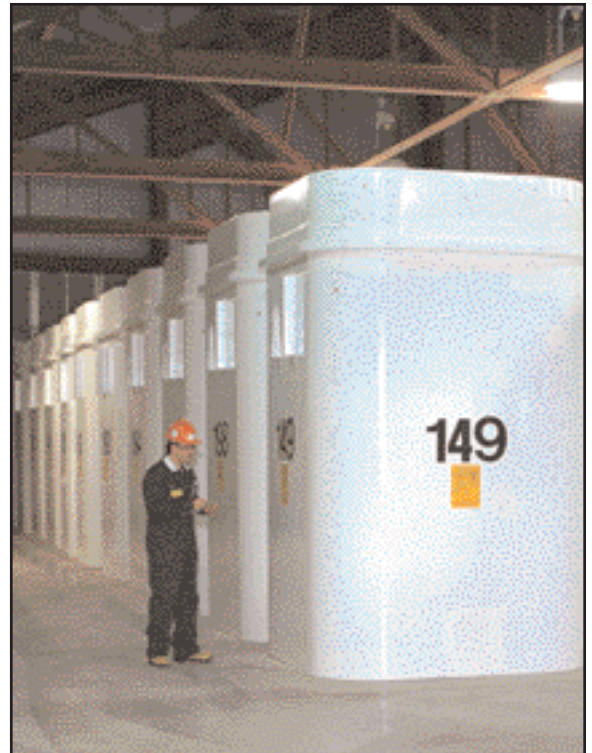
Meet Ajax resident and long time OPG employee Craig Gilroy.

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OPG Wind Turbine update

In the first three months of this year, Pickering Wind produced about one thousand megawatts of emissions-free electricity.

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Dry storage containers inside the interim used fuel dry storage facility at Pickering Nuclear.

Pickering Nuclear Interim Waste Management Expansion Open Houses

Whitby Open House Tuesday, June 11, 2002, Iroquois Park Complex

Pickering Open House Wednesday, June 12, 2002, Pickering Recreation Centre

Ajax Open House Tuesday, June 18, 2002, McLean Community Centre

Scarborough Open House Wednesday, June 19, 2002, Royal Canadian Legion

All Open Houses will be held between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

For further information, please call 1-888-267-6140.



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A word from our Senior Vice President

Pat McNeil has recently been appointed Senior Vice-President Nuclear Strategy and Support. Pat is a long-time resident of Durham Region.

With the return to service of Pickering A, the Pickering and Darlington nuclear generating stations will produce about 40 per cent of the electricity supply of the province, helping to make Durham Region the "energy capital of Ontario." OPG is committed to this region's growth and prosperity; let me bring you up-to-date on some current developments.

Nuclear Head Office

We are moving about 400 additional jobs into Durham with the relocation of our nuclear head office from Toronto. After completing an analysis to determine how many employees we will move, and their needs in terms of office space, we will be in a position to issue a Request for Proposal to design, build and lease a facility. We are prepared to look at all Durham communities in proximity to our nuclear stations as the site of the new nuclear head office. At this time I expect it will be about 20 months from the time we issue the RFP until we occupy the new nuclear head office.

Whitby Warehouse

Another project that we have just announced is the building of a warehouse in Whitby. The 157,000 sq. ft. warehouse will be built at 2255 Forbes Street in Whitby. Site preparation is currently underway and construction will begin shortly with building completion scheduled for late September of this year.

Economic Impact & Community Citizenship

Our nuclear operations have a major impact on the local economy. Last year we spent just over \$140 million in Durham Region for goods and services, almost triple what we spent in 2000. OPG is also part of the team working with ITER Canada to bring to Durham what could be the largest collaborative project since the international space station.

We are strongly committed to Durham Region and we will be here as an active corporate community citizen for many years to come.

Come out to our Discovery Day on June 22 at Pickering Nuclear, enjoy a barbecue, meet our staff and learn more about us. I look forward to meeting you!

March 2002 Report Card

Pickering's Nuclear Performance Index (NPI) for the first quarter of 2002 was 77.3. This is a 2.3 per cent improvement from fourth quarter 2001, but is lower than this year's target of 80.5. The NPI provides an overview of performance in 11 key areas that include safety and production. The index is used by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) to measure the performance of nuclear plants worldwide.



Pickering Nuclear's performance was measured in all areas of our operations. Reportable events are a measure of our margin of safety, and to date this year we have had no reportable events. Our workplace safety indicators continue to exceed the targets we have set for ourselves this year. And the radiation dose to the public was 36 per cent better than target and significantly better than the regulatory limit of 1,000 microsieverts.

Pickering's reactor trip rate measured 0.00, which is better than our own target and the WANO standard of one trip per 7,000 hours of operation per year. Our Capability Factor, which is a measure of how well the station is doing at producing electricity, was 79.78 percent, which is better than our target of 77.8 percent to the end of March.

And finally, Pickering's environmental performance continues to meet the target of zero spills in March.

You can receive your own copy of our latest report card by phoning the Pickering Community Information Line at **905-837-7272** or by visiting our web site at **www.opg.com**.

Pickering A An Update

On May 22, OPG presented a six month update on the progress of our Pickering A restart efforts to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). As one would expect with a project of the size and complexity of Pickering, we have had our share of challenges. As a result, these challenges have delayed the expected return to service date of the first unit and increased our cost.

With an all-in cost of \$30 per megawatt hour, Pickering A is still by far the most economic source of additional generation available to us. "While the delays in the project have naturally been frustrating for OPG, we will not rush the job," OPG President and CEO Ron Osborne told the CNSC. "We will take the time we need to do the job right, and to the very highest levels of safety," he added.

On a positive note, OPG has resolved these issues and the project is on track. Engineering is completed, construction is working full out, and commissioning of the first unit will begin this fall.

In Brief

Drug Stores to carry Potassium Iodide tablets

Durham Regional Health Department, along with the Durham Emergency Measures Office is distributing potassium iodide (KI) tablets to selected drug stores across the region. Under this plan, the pills will be available to residents living or working within a three-kilometre radius of Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear generating stations.

The KI tablets, which are provided free of charge, are used to help prevent or reduce the absorption of radioactive iodine by the thyroid in the unlikely event of a serious nuclear accident, and are to be taken only on direction from Emergency Measures Ontario.

Tablets are available in Pickering at:

Bay Ridges Pharmacy, 1235 Bayly St., Guardian Main Drug Mart, 1885 Glenanna Rd., and Liverpool Pharmacy at 715 Krosno Blvd.

They are also available at Guardian Drugs, 130 Waverly Rd. in Bowmanville, and Courtice Guardian Pharmacy, 2727 Courtice Rd. in Courtice.

For more information on the KI tablets or the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Plan, please call Durham Regional Health Department at (905) 723-8521 or 1-800-841-2729.

Featured Artists from the Schoolhouse Group

OPG, in partnership with the Pineridge Arts Council, is once again proud to feature the works of local artists on the walls of the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre. Our featured artists are from the Schoolhouse Group of Artists in Lemonville:

* Darla Arthurs, whose paintings are an expression of her absolute love of light and shadow;

* Linda Down, whose creative spirit is heightened by the colours, shapes and textures of the world around her; and

* Barb Lussing, who freely follows her connection with colour and design down its creative path.

You're invited to come in and enjoy their work at the Information Centre, located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.



Meet Craig Gilroy

As Ontario Power Generation moves into the second phase of its nuclear waste management facility, long time Ajax resident Craig Gilroy is one of the experienced members of the OPG Nuclear Waste Management Team who are developing the proposal and working hard toward its realization.

An employee at OPG for 20 years, Craig is a Senior Technical Engineer, providing production support by ensuring the used fuel dry storage facility systems are maintained and available for service. "The used fuel dry storage facility operation ensures spent fuel is removed from Pickering Nuclear's irradiated fuel bays and stored on site in dry storage containers."

Craig says that the fuel is loaded underwater into the dry storage containers and transported under vacuum to the storage facility where the lid is welded to its base. "Upon successfully passing inspection, the concrete and steel storage containers are placed into interim storage in the used fuel dry storage facility. Phase II will provide additional on-site storage to Phase I."

"I feel safe working here, knowing first hand that workplace safety and environment protection are dealt with both thoroughly and professionally. Because of our excellent safety performance and efforts to protect the environment, I feel confident as a local resident and an OPG employee that our plans for expansion pose no risk to our safety or the environment," he says.

When Craig isn't providing support at work, he is providing support to a number of organizations in the community, which in the past included coaching for the Ajax Warriors Soccer Club and fundraising for the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke, and Multiple Sclerosis. Today, he spends his time as a youth development leader at his church and as a Scout leader with Scouts Canada.

Craig, who has been a leader in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for more than 11 years, became involved when his sons decided to join Beavers. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to spend more time with them and help out our local Scout Group, the 13th Ajax," says Craig.

Craig says that he feels a strong desire to put back into the community from which he has received so much. "I get a great deal of satisfaction knowing that what I do can make a difference in the community as a whole, and watching our young people develop as they set and achieve their goals."

Craig is looking forward to the 13th Ajax Year End Camp and Family Picnic where third year Beavers, Cubs and Scouts move up to the next section. "It's really gratifying to listen to parents comment on how the Scouting movement has had a positive impact on their child's development," he says.

Although modest, Craig admits that the importance of a role model for our youth cannot be underestimated. "Role models serve as a key ingredient to the development of our future because they help define the values of tomorrow's leaders."

Here at OPG, we are proud to see that Craig is as committed to his community as we are.

OPG is dedicated to safety

Ontario Power Generation's Emergency Response Team and the City of Pickering's Fire Services Department have joined forces, proving once again OPG's dedication to putting safety first.

OPG and the City of Pickering have signed a new agreement, which will provide additional support to maintain the highest fire safety standards at Pickering Nuclear and in the community.

Working closely with Pickering Fire Services this new agreement, funded by OPG, includes specialized plant and advanced incident command training, annual safety inspections of our facilities, on-site drills, and the establishment of an emergency response co-ordinator position for the City.

"This new agreement provides both OPG and Pickering Fire Services with a plan that will assist in ensuring that fire safety issues are dealt with in a timely and efficient manner by professionals," said Pickering Fire Chief, Bill Douglas.

In the event of an emergency within the City, the team at OPG can assist Pickering Fire Services by supplying fire-fighting equipment, if requested.

The support offered by both OPG's Emergency Response Team and the City's Fire Services will allow for both teams to be better prepared should an emergency arise.

"Although, for many years, OPG staff and Pickering Fire Services have trained together and have taken part in simulated exercises this agreement has now taken this joint training to a much higher level. I believe this is a great step forward for both our organizations," Chief Douglas added.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2002 10am - 4pm
PICKERING NUCLEAR INVITES YOU TO

Tackle a fire hose, try on a real radiation suit for size and check out over 40 cool displays. When you're done all that, why not take a ride on the informative Bus Tour and experience a demo of the control room simulator! As if that wasn't enough, we have face painting, carnival games, balloons, lots of inflatable games and of course, clowns. While you're enjoying all this fun, enjoy the sights and sounds of our non-stop live entertainment: **Extreme Mountain Biking, The Fire Guy, NRG Break Dancers** and many more! Learn about the improvements we are making to Pickering A and Pickering B. Ask questions about our role in the electricity marketplace. This is also a great opportunity to meet the staff at Pickering who will be up and atom in full force to enjoy the day with their families too. **NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

TONNES OF PRIZES FOR THE KIDS!
Questions? Call the Hotline at 905.839.7272



Pickering Wind

Wind power is one of the fastest growing sources of electricity generation in the world. It's quiet, practically emissions-free, and uses only the wind – a renewable resource. With advances in technology and a growing demand for cleaner and more cost-efficient ways of producing energy, OPG has begun to meet that demand with its Pickering Wind Generating Station.

In the first quarter of this year, Pickering Wind produced about one thousand megawatts of emissions-free electricity.

Favourable wind conditions coming off Lake Ontario with little impact to the environment helped to make the decision to locate Pickering Wind adjacent to the Pickering Nuclear station. If the turbine is producing electricity, it will turn constantly at 15.7 rotations per minute, no matter how fast the wind.

Every day the Pickering Nuclear Information Line is busy with calls about Pickering Wind. Two Most frequently asked questions are:

Q Why is it that when I look at the wind turbine on some days it appears to spin clockwise and on other days it spins counter-clockwise?

A The 39-metre length blades always turn in the same direction – clockwise. The reason the blades appear to be turning in different directions is likely due to the way one is looking at it. The turbine can turn 360 degrees, which makes it seem as though the blades are turning counter-clockwise, when looking from the back of the unit itself.

Q From time to time, I notice that Pickering Wind does not always work, even when it is a windy day. Why is that?

A If you see the turbine blades are not turning, despite the presence of wind, it is likely because it is being serviced or has been shut down for examination. Other reasons for not operating are:

- If the wind is below four metres per second (the cut-in speed), the blades will not generate electricity
- If the wind speed is more than 25 metres per second (the stop wind speed), the on-board computers will shut down the turbine.

If you have a question about Pickering Wind call us at (905) 837-7272 or e-mail us at pickeringnuclear@opg.com.



Neighbours

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