

PICKERING NUCLEAR

Special Neighbours Newsletter



LET'S TALK NUCLEAR SAFETY

As the recovery from a devastating earthquake and tsunami followed by a nuclear event continues to unfold, our thoughts are with the people of Japan and their relatives here in Canada. We realize that those events have prompted some questions and some concern amongst some of our neighbours here in Durham Region.

We appreciate the opportunity to address any questions and for the past three weeks, we have been proactively sharing information. On the back page of this newsletter, you will find a set of more commonly asked questions and answers.

Upfront, I want to offer assurance that our host communities and generating facilities in Durham Region will never face an earthquake nor a tsunami of the magnitude suffered in Japan. A number of independent studies have confirmed that Durham Region is an area of low seismic risk. Many expert organizations have concluded that there are no seismic fault lines near our generating stations. Visit our website at opg.com where we provide you with links to some of those organizations' websites.

Still, OPG's nuclear generating stations are designed and constructed to very high safety standards. Consideration includes highly unlikely accidents—even many happening at the same time. We have the ability to automatically shut down our reactors in less than two seconds. We have multiple back-up safety and cooling systems. We have several back-up sources of power to ensure our safety systems always remain available as well as "passive" safety systems that don't require electricity or operator intervention. All this gives us confidence that we will always maintain our ability to safely shut down and cool our reactors.

Employees at OPG have an unwavering commitment to the safe operation of our nuclear generating stations here in Durham Region. As we come to fully understand the facts surrounding the events in Japan, we will scour those facts for potential opportunities to make our stations even safer.

Our employees not only work here; they live here with their families too.

Please call, e-mail or visit us anytime you have questions. We appreciate the opportunity. And we commit to always provide honest and transparent information.

Wayne Robbins,
Chief Nuclear Officer
Ontario Power Generation

Learning Lessons From Japan

As an operator of nuclear generating stations, Ontario Power Generation remains confident in our ability to safely operate and if required, quickly and safely shut down our reactors. That confidence should not be mistaken for complacency. As the nuclear event in Japan unfolds, we are turning a critical eye to our own facilities and equipment to reconfirm the safety of our operations, employees, and community.

In a letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power have outlined a series of committed actions to verify the safety of Ontario's nuclear generating stations.

Co-signed by CEOs Tom Mitchell and Duncan Hawthorne, the letter also commits to establishing a joint committee to review the experience from Fukushima Daiichi and capture any lessons learned. OPG representatives have already been named and their work is expected to be completed over the next couple of months with a final report in about four months.



ISO 14001 Certification - Pickering Nuclear
Environmental Management System

ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION

You Asked Us

Since March 11, we have proactively increased our outreach to our neighbours and community stakeholders in Durham Region to share information about our own operations and answer questions we expect given the events in Japan. Here are some of the most common questions and answers we've shared.

Can what happened in Japan, happen here?

We will not face an earthquake and a tsunami of the magnitude suffered in Japan. Our nuclear generating stations are very robust in design and construction. Consideration includes highly unlikely accidents –even many happening at the same time. We have the ability to automatically shut down our reactors in less than two seconds. We have multiple back-up safety and cooling systems. We have several back-up sources of power to ensure our safety systems always remain available. All this gives us confidence that we will always maintain our ability to safely shut down and cool our reactors.

Our federal regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, also continues to express confidence in the safety of Canada's nuclear reactors.

You can read more on the CNSC website at: www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca

Isn't there a major fault line near OPG's facilities?

No. The Seismic Hazard Resolution Project (1998 – 2001) confirmed that the features in the Rouge River valley sediments occurred as a result of glacial processes and not from deep earthquake producing structures. There are no active or proven faults under or near either the Pickering Nuclear or Darlington Nuclear.

You can learn more by reading this article in the local Metroland newspaper that quotes an expert from Earthquakes Canada: www.newsdurhamregion.com/news/article/173473

Could OPG facilities withstand an earthquake?

Yes. All OPG nuclear power plants have been designed to withstand potential earthquakes greater than any that would be expected to occur in this region. Both the actual structures that form

containment and the systems important to safety have been seismically qualified. That is they are designed and built or refurbished to meet seismic standards. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has reviewed and inspected these installations to confirm their robustness with regards to potential earthquakes. Similarly, waste management facilities are designed to withstand seismic events (as defined under the National Building Code).

Lack of power seemed to be the big problem in Japan. Is there a back-up power supply at OPG's nuclear facilities?

Yes. We have several back-up sources of power to ensure our safety systems always remain available. In the event of an earthquake or other worse-case scenarios, OPG's nuclear emergency power system is designed to provide electrical power to nuclear safety-related systems that support control of reactor power, cool the fuel, and contain any radioactive fission products. OPG made a multi-million dollar investment over the past few years to further strengthen the emergency back-up systems.

Do I need to have KI pills?

No. Health Canada reports that the damaged nuclear station in Japan is not expected to pose any health risk to people in Canada. They reiterate that KI pills should not be taken unless there is a clear public health recommendation to do so.

To learn more, visit Health Canada's website at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca

In the event of a nuclear emergency, what measures are in place to maintain the safety of the public?

Emergency Measures Ontario has extensive emergency preparedness plans ready for a variety of scenarios, including the very unlikely event of a nuclear emergency. As do the Region

of Durham, our municipalities, and Ontario Power Generation. These plans are regularly practiced and reviewed by regulators.

Durham Region has installed an outdoor public alerting system in Clarington, Pickering and Ajax to alert residents of any emergency through sirens. Upon hearing the sirens, residents are asked to go inside and await further instructions by radio or television. Of course if the emergency involved OPG, we would issue regular updates as part of our demonstrated commitment to transparency.

You can learn more here at Durham Region website at: www.durham.ca

What impact did the recent water release at Pickering have on drinking water?

OPG inadvertently released about 30,000 litres of demineralised water into the environment. (Minerals are removed from the water in the station to avoid mineral build up). The release of demineralised water (with scant amount of tritium) had no impact on the quality of municipal drinking water. Lab analysis of water samples taken from nearby water supply plants from March 13 to 16 confirmed that the low amount of tritium in our drinking water remained normal and unchanged. With the heightened awareness of nuclear events, this minor spill garnered more attention than it normally would.

If you have questions we haven't covered here, please visit our website at www.opg.com; send us an e-mail at pickeringnuclear@opg.com; phone us at 905-837-7272 or visit our Information Centre at 1675 Montgomery Park Road, Pickering.

Neighbours



Pickering Neighbours
is published for the neighbours
of Ontario Power Generation at
Pickering Nuclear.

Mailing Address:
Ontario Power Generation
Pickering Nuclear
1675 Montgomery Park Rd. P.O. Box 160
Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R5
www.opg.com

ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION