

WINTER 2013

A proud part of the community since 1965

PICKERING NUCLEAR

Neighbours Newsletter

IN THIS
ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM
GLENN JAGER

SAFE AND
RELIABLE

READY FOR
ANYTHING

MARCH BREAK
MADNESS

Fun on the Farm

Everyone had such a great day at WindReach Farm last year, that we're partnering again during the upcoming March Break. For more details, see page four of this newsletter. WindReach provides welcoming and safe opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the experience of a farm and natural environment. To learn more about this special spot here in Durham Region, please visit: windreachfarm.org



Have Your Say Pickering Relicensing

Deliberations have begun on Ontario Power Generation's request for an operating licence renewal at Pickering Nuclear and you can participate in the process.

All nuclear stations in Canada are federally regulated and operate under licences issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for specific periods of time.

"We believe the effectiveness of our programs (to ensure the safety of the public and protection of the environment) warrant a five-year licence renewal," said Glenn Jager, Pickering Nuclear Senior Vice President. "Anyone interested, can review our 81-page submission at: opg.com."

Our station activities and performance are continually monitored by CNSC staff. Their annual performance report evaluates our station in 14 safety-related areas. In all of these important areas, we continue to satisfy performance expectations. CNSC staff have recommended a five-year licence renewal. Their report can be accessed at: nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

Stakeholder and public involvement is a key part of the relicensing hearing process. Technical expertise or technical knowledge is not a prerequisite for participation. Stakeholder and public involvement is referred to as an "intervention." Commissioners read all interventions and they become part of the official record and are considered in making their decisions.

The next steps in this re-licensing process is for the CNSC to receive interventions by April 29. Then public hearings will be held at Pickering Recreation Complex on May 29 and 30. A decision is expected to be issued before June 30.

To learn more about participating in the Pickering Nuclear re-licensing hearings as an intervener, visit: nuclearsafety.gc.ca.



**A message from
Glenn Jager,
Senior Vice President,
Pickering Nuclear**

At OPG, we believe that transparency in our operations and in communicating with our community stakeholders is vital to our success.

We earn a licence to operate Pickering Nuclear generating station by meeting the safety and overall performance expectations of our federal regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). We also believe that we earn a social licence to operate from our host community.

CNSC staff continually monitor all plans and activities at our station. We post our reports to the regulator on opg.com. CNSC staff issue an annual report on our station's performance. Public participation is encouraged during CNSC deliberations for our relicensing applications and the hearings are live streamed. We believe this transparency in our operations makes us even better.

We work hard at transparency in our communications too. We share our station activities, successes, and challenges in a variety of ways. This newsletter is one example. We host a public Information Centre and anyone with questions or concerns can visit, call our Community Information Line (905-837-7272), or send us an email at pickeringnuclear@opg.com. We also reach out through social media like Facebook and Twitter.

For the past 14 years, we've been hosting monthly Community Advisory Council meetings with a cross-section of community representatives. We share our station plans and activities and respond to any questions and suggestions. These exchanges help us better reflect our shared values and perform at a level that maintains community support.

Safe And Reliable To Retirement

OPG and the employees at Pickering Nuclear are committed to ensuring our station generates safe and reliable electricity right up to its last day of operations in 2020.

Since 2011, OPG has invested \$100 million in additional inspections and maintenance. We've also completed extensive testing and analysis to demonstrate all station components meet the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's expectations.

And we're going to invest another \$100 million in additional inspections and maintenance over the next two years.

You might ask why invest so much money and resources in a station that's going to stop operating in eight years?

Last year, Pickering Nuclear produced about 15% of the electricity needed in Ontario and helped reduce the overall electricity cost for consumers. When the refurbishment of Darlington Nuclear begins in 2016, a reliable supply of electricity from the Pickering station will be crucial for meeting Ontario's daily base load demand.



Changing Shoes To Change Lives

OPG is proud to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ajax-Pickering again this year in support of Bowl for Kids' Sake. It's the 100th anniversary of the national organization and the 40th anniversary of our local chapter. Their programs truly change lives through the power of caring relationships. Bowl for Kids' Sake is set for March 20. To learn more, sign up to bowl or sponsor a team (we're "OPG - Split Squad"), please visit: bbandsofap.com.

ZERO INJURIES

Believe it. Achieve it.

8.5 Million Hours

Pickering Nuclear employees have worked more than 8.5 million hours without a lost-time injury. And that's no accident. At OPG, we believe that Zero Injuries is achievable and that's something we're always striving for.

At the end of every shift, we want our employees to return home to their families in good health.

Ready For Anything

OPG has the equipment, procedures, and most importantly, the trained personnel to ensure we are literally ready for any type of emergency.

I don't think it was possible to watch the tragic events in Fukushima unfold without thinking "What if it happened here?" said Jim Coles, Director of Emergency Management for OPG. "We needed to confirm that we're ready for emergencies that were never considered possible."



That's why safety is our first priority.

OPG's nuclear stations have multiple safety systems in place, and we're trained, practised and prepared for any emergency.



ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION

Visit opg.com for more information on our nuclear safety measures.

We do not have large-scale seismic events or tsunamis in Durham Region, nor do we expect to. Still, OPG immediately launched a thorough review which confirmed for ourselves and our federal regulator (the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) that our stations are safe and robust, and that we can respond effectively to any emergency.

Lessons learned from Fukushima were also captured and embraced by OPG. We have enhanced our protection against external events. "In any type of emergency, we need to keep our fuel cool," said Coles. "While our station is designed with multiple systems to accomplish that, we've purchased portable equipment and we are making modifications to equipment and procedures to add an even greater measure of defence-in-depth."

To learn more about OPG's response to Fukushima and our emergency readiness, please visit: opg.com. For information on personal emergency preparedness and Durham Region's nuclear emergency plans, please visit: durham.ca/departments/demo.

If you have any questions or concerns about emergency preparedness, please phone us at 905-837-7272 or e-mail us at pickeringnuclear@opg.com.

Pickering Nuclear was built more than 40 years ago, how do you know that the concrete structures are still sound?

During construction of Pickering Nuclear, we did not use any concrete containing reactive silica which has been found to compromise the integrity of concrete structures by expanding and causing stress and cracking – usually about 10-15 years after construction.

We also have ongoing inspection and testing programs based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standard for concrete containment structures. These programs and reports are part of our operating licence with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Integrated Safety Reviews have also been conducted that demonstrate our concrete containment structures meet the expectations of our operating licence and all safety design requirements.

The Nuclear Liability Act limits the operator's civil liability to \$75 million. Has OPG opposed efforts to increase that amount?

The Minister of Natural Resources Canada is responsible for reviewing and recommending any revisions to the Nuclear Liability Act.

In 2010, the federal government introduced Bill C-15 which would have raised the minimum liability coverage from \$75 million to \$650 million. However, parliament was dissolved when federal election was called and this bill died.

OPG supported this legislation and all previous bills intended to raise the limit (C-20, C-5, C-63).

I've heard some people say that a German study found a higher rate of childhood leukemia near nuclear plants. Is that true?

No health impacts for nearby residents would be expected given the very low levels of radiation emissions from the nuclear facilities which are far lower than natural background radiation.

The "KiKK" study found groups or "clusters" of childhood leukemia near nuclear facilities, but clusters were also found in areas where there are no nuclear facilities.

The authors of the study have said the cause of these childhood leukemia remains unexplained and may be due to uncontrolled confounding or pure chance.



OPG PICKERING NUCLEAR

Join us for... **March Break MADNESS** 2013

JOIN US FOR FUN, FREE AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
Children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is **not** required.

MARCH
11

YT V's Earth Rangers

Monday, March 11 • 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre



earth
rangers

Meet Earth Rangers
Animal Ambassadors!

MARCH
14

ZUMBA

Thursday, March 14 • 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

COME ON DOWN FOR A FUN
FILLED ZUMBA SESSION!



MARCH
12

Splish, Splash, Swim!

Tuesday, March 12 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road.

Pool has a
maximum – swim
is on a first-come,
first-served basis.

ADMISSION IS FREE
DURING PROGRAM HOURS.



MARCH
15

Budding Artists & Actors!

Friday, March 15 • 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

Join PineRidge Arts and
Driftwood Theatre to unlock
your artistic side!



MARCH
13

Family Fun at the Farm

Wednesday, March 13 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WindReach Farm

Join us at the farm to try
snowshoeing, enjoy wagon rides,
and more! Food and
refreshments available at a cost.



MARCH
16

Budding Artists & Actors!

Wednesday, March 13 • 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

Draw, paint or act –
time to be creative!



For more information on our March Break program, please call the
Pickering Nuclear Community Information Line at 905-837-7272
or visit www.opg.com/community.

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opg.com

Neighbours



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