

SUMMER 2014

A proud part of the community since 1965

PICKERING NUCLEAR

Neighbours Newsletter

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PROUD OF PICKERING



Community members and OPG employees planted 1,800 wild-flowers and native grasses in Alex Robertson Park, adjacent to the Pickering station as part of "Take Pride in Pickering" day in June. Students from Bayview Heights Public School joined the effort by planting another 300 plants in the same area, as part of the "Backyard Buddies" partnership between OPG and the school.

Over the past fourteen years of biodiversity initiatives in the park, volunteers have planted more than 11,500 native trees and shrubs, installed a snake hibernaculum, 35 songbird boxes, two bat boxes, and constructed a pond for amphibians and turtles.

The Pearce family is "Proud of Pickering!"

Annual Environmental Monitoring Results for 2013

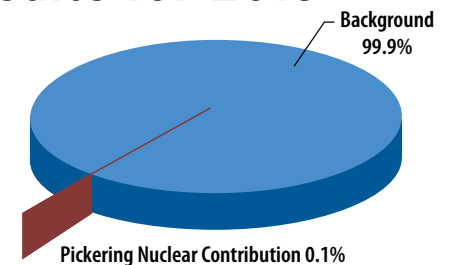
In 2013, the highest radiation dose to members of the public from the Pickering or Darlington nuclear stations was less than one per cent of the regulatory limit as demonstrated by OPG's extensive Environmental Monitoring Program.

Exposure for most people living in Durham Region is even less. "We practise the ALARA Principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) and set our own internal targets at less than one per cent of the regulatory limit," said Glenn Jager, OPG's Chief Nuclear Officer. "We're proud to be within our target year after year."

Darlington's annual public dose for 2013 was 0.6 microsieverts and Pickering's was 1.1 microsieverts. The annual regulatory limit set by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is 1,000 microsieverts.

The results are based on routine monitoring of any station emissions and thousands of environmental samples taken from a variety of sources including air, lake water, beach sand, fish, vegetables, milk, and soil. An independent third-party expert verifies the results each year.

Results of the full monitoring report are available on opg.com



Typical Doses from Exposure to Natural and Anthropogenic Sources	
Source	Exposure (in microsieverts)
CNSC regulatory limit	1,000
Natural background in Durham	1,400
Chest X-ray	10
Airplane flight (2 hrs)	12
Pickering station contribution in 2013	1.1

ONTARIOPOWER
GENERATION



Jim Coles
Director, Emergency
Management & Fire
Protection
Ontario Power Generation

Public and employee safety has been a primary goal both in the design and operation of OPG's nuclear stations.

While the chance of a severe nuclear emergency is remote, it only makes sense to plan and practice the response to all manner of emergencies.

Just as my family practices what we would do in case of a fire in our home, at OPG we have comprehensive plans to ensure we're trained and ready for any event. And we maintain that readiness by doing frequent practices, drills and exercises.

For three days this past May, Ontario was the scene of unprecedented activity as more than 1,000 people and 54 Federal, Provincial and Municipal agencies, including OPG, participated in Exercise Unified Response; a large multi-jurisdictional nuclear emergency exercise designed to test how well all levels of government and OPG could work as a team during an emergency and to test the integration of our respective emergency plans. The exercise was also designed to test OPG's emergency mitigation equipment and the response capabilities of our own staff. No one agency could manage the response to an emergency alone. All levels of government, numerous organizations and the community at large have a role to play.

This was more than just an emergency response drill, it was an exercise in partnership and collaboration. We are very pleased with the outcome, which successfully demonstrated our preparedness and ability to collectively respond. One of the reasons we perform drills is to validate our emergency plans and look for ways to improve. Exercise Unified Response was a unique opportunity to do this and we will incorporate the lessons we learned to make our plans even better.

Like me, many OPG employees are proud to call Durham Region home and enjoy raising our families here. Our employees take pride in making this community a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. We demonstrate this through the ways we contribute to the community as residents, and most importantly, in the way we safely operate our generating stations.

Pickering Nuclear Ready to Support Darlington

CNSC approves request to remove licence hold point

Pickering Nuclear received good news in June when the CNSC (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) approved OPG's request to remove the hold point on the station's operating licence.

"This is excellent news for the nuclear fleet and the entire company," says Glenn Jager, OPG's Chief Nuclear Officer. "The removal of the hold point authorizes us to proceed with plans to operate the station up to 247,000 Equivalent Full Power Hours (EFPH)."

Last year when Pickering was granted a five-year operating licence it included "hold points" or conditions. One of these required OPG to provide more information on extending the life of the pressure tubes to 2020.

The CNSC's decision to remove the hold point was made following a public hearing in May, where the Commission considered information presented by OPG, submissions from 55 interveners as well as CNSC staff.

"Through extensive analysis, experiments and inspections," says Glenn, "we demonstrated our pressure tubes are more than capable of operating safely past the original dates."

With the hold point removed, Pickering is now well positioned to fill the electricity generation gap while Darlington is undergoing station refurbishment, beginning in 2016.

The current operating licence for the Pickering station expires on August 31, 2018.

Protecting You and Your Family

WHO IS IN CHARGE DURING AN EMERGENCY?

A number of organizations work together to ensure public safety in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency, each with their own distinct area of emergency response. The Province of Ontario has the overall responsibility for managing the off-site response to nuclear emergencies. Ontario Power Generation, Emergency Management Ontario, and the regional and local governments work together to protect the public. Briefly, the nuclear emergency response is divided into three areas of responsibility.

OPG's responsibility is to make sure our reactors are operated, maintained and designed in such a way that accidents won't happen. If an accident occurs, our responsibility is to make sure it is controlled and radiation releases are minimized. We are also responsible for the safety of our employees.

The Province of Ontario, through Emergency Management Ontario, is responsible for the overall Provincial Nuclear Emergency Plan including public safety. It has responsibility for making decisions on the proper level of public action and response. The Region of Durham, through the Durham Emergency Management Office, and local municipalities all have emergency plans in place. It is their emergency responders, the police, fire and ambulance crews, with support from a host of other groups, who make sure the emergency plans are implemented properly.

Residents near nuclear facilities are responsible for being informed, and knowing what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency. If an emergency were to occur, the province will alert people through a combination of sirens, automated telephone messages and radio, television and social media alerts in your area.

The people, plans and procedures that are put in place for nuclear emergency response can also be called upon during more common emergencies like ice storms, train derailments or industrial accidents.

OPG's Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Waste

There will be additional hearing days for OPG's proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project for the long-term management of low and intermediate-level radioactive waste.

A federally-appointed Joint Review Panel held public hearings in the Fall of 2013 to consider OPG's environmental impact statement (EIS) and documents in support of a licence to prepare the site and construct the DGR. The panel has set aside two additional weeks this coming September for hearings in the community of Kincardine, the proposed location of the DGR. Interested parties can participate in the review of the EIS and licensing. Since the hearings concluded last year, OPG has provided detailed information in response to additional requests from the panel. OPG remains confident in the safety of the proposed DGR project.

For additional information about the project and regulatory approvals process, please visit www.opgdgr.com

OUT WITH THE COAL. IN WITH THE NEW.

This past April, Ontario Power Generation burned its last piece of coal to make electricity. By successfully phasing out coal, OPG has delivered the Province's commitment to cleaner air. It also happens to be North America's single largest climate change initiative.

And now, we're adding to Ontario's cleaner energy mix by expanding our hydroelectric generation and refurbishing the Darlington Nuclear station. We're also converting some of our coal stations to run on biomass – a renewable, plant-based fuel that's better for the environment and good for the North's economy.

To learn more about OPG's efforts to help build a reliable, efficient and clean electricity system for Ontario, visit opg.com.



Never Be in the Dark with Your Safety

Residents living in the immediate vicinity of the Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations recently received a Nuclear Safety Guide in the mail. The handy reference tool, packaged as a working flashlight, explains what residents should do in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency. It includes contact information for the partner agencies that are responsible for ensuring the safety of residents in the vicinity of the stations.

The guides are being distributed in partnership with the Region's Durham Emergency Management Office, the City of Toronto (Office of Emergency Management), Province of Ontario (Office of the Fire Marshall and Emergency Management) and Ontario Power Generation.

To request a guide, contact the Durham Emergency Management Office at (905) 430-2792.

Giving Mother Nature a Helping Hand

Nature was the classroom this spring for eager sixth graders from Highbush Public School in Pickering. The students were participating in the OPG-sponsored Bring Back the Salmon program with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and a number of other organizations. The program is designed to help restore the Atlantic salmon population in Lake Ontario by 2020.

Earlier this year, students from the school helped kick off the program by monitoring the growth of 100 salmon eggs being hatched at OPG's Pickering Nuclear information centre. Next, the students did a major cleanup of Duffins Creek to remove

garbage ensuring a hospitable habitat for the young salmon. Then, in early June, students released the salmon fry (raised in the hatchery) into the creek.

Their education came full circle with the final step of the program, "Yellow Fish Road." Students painted a yellow fish alongside storm drains around Highbush Public School to highlight the risk for pollution to enter local water systems and the impact pollution may have on fish. "The program does a great job promoting out-of-classroom learning," says OPG's Cheryl Johnston. "It gives students a sense of pride which makes supporting the environment something tangible."



THANKS FOR JOINING US **TUESDAYS ON THE TRAIL**

We are wrapping up another successful summer of Tuesdays on the Trail. Thanks to the hundreds of children and their families who joined us – we really enjoyed the opportunity to learn together along Pickering Nuclear's portion of the Waterfront Trail. It was wonderful to see so many returning families and meet new ones too.

It's because of the generosity of our community partners that we are able to bring high-quality, educational and

free activities to the community each year. Thanks to our enthusiastic partners: Pickering Museum Village; artist Susan Lindo; the Durham West Arts Centre; Toronto Region Conservation; Earth Rangers; Driftwood Theatre Group; Kim Wheatley from Shawanaga First Nation Reserve; artists from PineRidge Arts Council; and Scientists in School.

Thanks again to all the families who attended! We hope to see you next year.



Peregrine Falcons Call Pickering Nuclear Home

Pickering Nuclear is home to a brand new juvenile Peregrine falcon. Earlier this spring, OPG employees spotted a pair of falcons in a quiet area on the south side of the station. After some careful surveillance, staff realized the pair was guarding a nest.

Mark Nash of the Canadian Peregrine Foundation (CPF) was contacted to get advice and assistance to ensure the area was kept safe for the birds. Taking care not to disturb them, OPG staff continued to monitor the birds and nest and even managed to get some beautiful photos once the eggs had hatched.

A storm in late May resulted in a torrential downpour and rain flooded the nest. Unfortunately, only one baby survived. It has been aptly named "Flash" after surviving the flash flood that resulted from the storm.

With the help of caring OPG employees and the CPF, a special nesting box

was constructed for the baby to help his recovery and protect against the elements. Peregrine falcons have been spotted on the Pickering Nuclear site in past years. Pesticide use throughout the



A representative from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation holds "Flash" – the falcon born on the Pickering Nuclear site earlier this spring.

twentieth century almost eliminated the species as a whole, but they have made an incredible comeback in the last few years. OPG is a long-time partner of the CPF, having supported their research and educational programs across the province for more than 14 years, including their in-school program across Durham Region. At OPG, we are proud of our site environmental programs which encourage bio-diversity to retain what is significant, restore habitats that have been degraded, replace habitats that have been lost, and help recover species that are at risk.

In fact, the Pickering Nuclear site has twice been awarded "Corporate Habitat of the Year" by the international Wildlife Habitat Council. On last report, Flash has been practising his flying skills and is building confidence every day. We are honoured Flash and his parents chose our station as their home and hope they continue to build their family here.

Neighbours



Printed on 100% recycled paper
Design, Print, Distribution: OPG Business Infrastructure Services
Printed with vegetable inks.

Pickering Neighbours
is published quarterly 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
opg.com

**For more information
contact:**
905-837-7272

Mail to:
pickeringnuclear@opg.com

**ONTARIO POWER
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