



SUBMISSION TO THE
CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION

In the matter of

**OPG'S APPLICATION TO RENEW & MERGE THE
PICKERING A and B (Pickering NGS) NUCLEAR POWER
REACTOR OPERATING LICENNSSES (PROL) AS A ONE
SITE PROL TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018.**

Submitted by the
CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS COUNCIL

APRIL 29, 2013

Members of the Commission:

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization of workers who are represented by unions in various sectors of the Canadian nuclear industry. A list of the member Unions of the council is attached as Appendix A

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council hereby registers its support for and urges the relicensing of the Pickering a& B Nuclear Generating Station.

One of our major members, the Power Workers Union (PWU), represents operations and maintenance staff at the generating station. The local PWU representatives provide a report to the annual CNWC convention on the status of Pickering NPP. As several PWU representatives serve on the CNWC executive we are kept updated on all issues at the facility. Many of our member union representatives have toured the facility and are satisfied that the NPP is a safe place to work.

As we have stated in previous submissions to the Commission, the CNWC holds health and safety of workers to be paramount. We believe that a safe work environment which results in a very good safety culture creates a workplace that is operated in a very safe manner. A safe workplace ensures that the community is also safe. As you will be made aware the on site Unions are involved with the employer with many health and safety programs at the site. This cooperative effort ensures that worker safety is a top priority and a good safety culture does exist.

We suggest that the fact that Pickering NPP is a unionized facility and that the Union is highly engaged with workplace safety with OPG that any safety issue will be addressed immediately. This should help assure opponents that want the facility shut down, that if the workers are safe the community is also safe.

The presence of the on-site CNSC staff that continually reviews and monitors the safety of this facility helps to ensure the safe operation of the Generating Station. This fact should also help assure opponents that any issues that could possibly affect public safety are identified and rectified immediately.

Some concerns have been raised in regards to Pickering NPP being an ageing plant with the fear being an older plant facing end of life will not be maintained to a high degree and that safety may be compromised. Again, the on site Union and the CNSC presence on site will not let this happen so this should not be a concern.

Many of the station staff live nearby with their families; this demonstrates their confidence in the safety of the facility.

The CNWC has coordinated several tours of the Pickering Station over the years for Union leader groups. Some of these people had some skepticism about the facility prior to their visit but left with a sense of satisfaction that the plant was very clean and safety was a high priority.

The CNWC suggest that the above evidence of the high priority given to safety should help ensure the public that the Pickering A&B Generating Station is a safe facility and does not pose a safety threat to the community.

Our members recognize that the continued safe operation of the Pickering A & B Generating Station is imperative for the health of the Ontario economy and the safety of its residents.

The Station continues to produce clean environmentally friendly power to the Ontario Electricity Grid.

During our oral presentation at the upcoming public hearing in this regard two of our executive members will provide the commission with a brief presentation on the views of the diverse workforce at the site.

Conclusion

The CNWC has reviewed the submissions of OPG and also of the CNSC and we support the CNSC's overall conclusions that OPG is qualified to carry on the activities encompassed by the proposed one-site license, and that, in carrying out those activities, OPG will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons, and the maintenance of national security and the measures to implement the international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

We therefore fully support the relicensing of the Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station.

David Shier - President – CNWC

Attachments:

Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council Member Unions

Canadian Union of Public Employees
Locals 1500, 957, & 4250

Communication, Energy & Paper Workers Union
Local's 599-O & 48-S

International Association of Firefighters
Lodge 160

International Association of Machinist & Aerospace Workers
Local 608

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 37

Power Workers' Union

Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada CRPEG & WRPEG

United Steel Workers
Locals 8914, 8562, 7806, 4193, & 13173,

Chalk River Technicians and Technologist Union
Society of Professional Engineers & Associates (CANDU INC)

Hydro Quebec Professional Engineers Union

Grey Bruce Labour Council

Durham Region Labour Council