



**Written submission from the
Pickering Naturalists**

**Mémoire des
Pickering Naturalists**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station**

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.,
centrale nucléaire de Pickering**

Request for a ten-year renewal of its Nuclear
Power Reactor Operating Licence for the
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

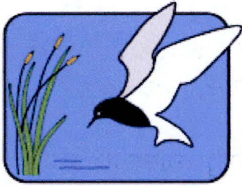
Demande de renouvellement, pour une période
de dix ans, de son permis d'exploitation d'un
réacteur nucléaire de puissance à la centrale
nucléaire de Pickering

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

**Audience publique de la Commission –
Partie 2**

June 2018

Juin 2018



PICKERING
NATURALISTS

Pickering Naturalists
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CNSC CCSN



5522261

April 18, 2018

Ms Louise Levert, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, PO Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

FILE DOSSIER	6.01.06 7-P-0
REFERRED TO REFÉRÉ A	Levert, L

Dear Ms. Levert:

The Pickering Naturalists would like to provide comments in support of OPG's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station licence renewal (reference 2018-H-03). We wish to intervene through this written submission only, and do not request an oral presentation.

Our comments are specifically related to our first-hand experience with OPG's commitment to environmental education and habitat restoration in our community and the greater Durham area.

Pickering Naturalists was founded 41 years ago. The organization is composed of residents of eastern Toronto and the Durham region who have taken an active interest in appreciating nature through activities such as hiking and bird watching. As well, club members monitor local development plans and advocate for the protection, preservation and restoration of natural habitat in our area as well as providing educational programs for the public, including guided nature hikes.

Through our participation in many nature programs over the years, we have had an opportunity to work with OPG on several projects and initiatives. We would like to highlight a few specific examples that demonstrate the commitment of OPG and Pickering Nuclear to local environmental education, to habitat restoration and to natural species restoration.

1. Naturalization of Alex Robertson Park - the large green space adjacent to the Pickering Nuclear plant, underway since 2000. Through cooperative efforts between OPG, the city and region and partners such as schools, service clubs, the TRCA (Toronto Region Conservation Authority) as well as organizations like the Pickering Naturalists, this park is being transformed into a wonderfully diverse wildlife habitat. Tree and shrub planting, along with the development of pollinator gardens and the naturalization of many lawn areas is creating a fantastic habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians. The change (for the better) in just a decade has been amazing.

2. Bring Back the Salmon initiative. As part of the overall program to address fish impingement and entrainment, OPG is engaged in a multi-year program to restock streams in Ontario with Atlantic salmon. Locally, the restocking of Duffins Creek provides an opportunity for schoolchildren to be engaged in the hatching and restocking activities. Pickering Nuclear supports hatchery tanks in schools and regular creek cleanups.
3. Education programs organized by Pickering Nuclear include the summer vacation activities associated with "Tuesdays on the Trail". Over the years of this program, thousands of local children and their families have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with enthusiastic naturalists who can communicate and share their knowledge about the bugs, birds, plants and other organisms that also live along the Waterfront Trail in Pickering.
4. For the last several years, OPG has worked with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation to support the successful breeding program of this species at risk. In 2017, four Peregrine chicks hatched at the nest located at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.
5. Other nature education initiatives include sponsorship and leading hikes and programs in the Rouge National Urban Park and the Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve as well as programs delivered in cooperation with the Toronto Zoo.

For more than 10 years, a member of the Pickering Naturalists has served on the Pickering Nuclear Community Advisory Council (CAC). Through our CAC participation, the naturalists club has gained deep insight into the operations of the station operations and we understand the commitment that OPG has made to ongoing training, plant safety culture, maintenance and modernization activities that have led to the safe operation of the facility.

We feel that Pickering Nuclear and OPG have made significant contributions over the years in their education programs and biodiversity projects. We believe that their enthusiasm and participation in these activities speaks very highly of the professionalism, sense of environmental responsibility and the spirit of the employees who share our community, and our natural world.

Sincerely,



Steve LaForest,
President, Pickering Naturalists.

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