



Ontario Power Generation

Approve a one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons working at Nuclear Power Plants*

Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Hearing in writing based solely on written submissions

Scheduled for:

July 2019

Submitted by:

CNSC Staff

Ontario Power Generation

Approuver une demande unique d'exemption à la section 26.1 du document RD-204, *Accréditation des personnes qui travaillent dans des centrales nucléaires*

Centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Audience fondée uniquement sur des mémoires

Prévue pour :

Juillet 2019

Soumise par :

Le personnel de la CCSN

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Summary

This CMD pertains to a request for a decision regarding:

- A one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants* to allow one person, as identified in Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) submission, to progress through the last Control Room Shift Supervisor (CRSS) training program for Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS). RD-204 forms part of the licensing basis for the Pickering NGS's Power Reactor Operating Licence under licence condition 2.4.

The following actions are requested of the Commission:

- To grant a one-time exemption to allow one person, as identified in OPG's submission, to progress through the CRSS training program with less than one year performing the duties of an Authorized Nuclear Operator (ANO).

Résumé

Le présent CMD concerne une demande de décision au sujet de ce qui suit :

- Une exemption unique à la section 26.1 du document RD-204, *Accréditation des personnes qui travaillent dans des centrales nucléaires* pour permettre à une personne, conformément à la soumission d'Ontario Power Generation, de suivre la dernière étape du programme de formation pour les chefs de quart de la salle de commande de la centrale de Pickering. Le document RD-204 fait partie du fondement d'autorisation pour le permis d'exploitation de la centrale de Pickering visé dans la condition de permis 2.4.


On demande à la Commission d'intervenir comme suit :

- Accorder une exemption unique pour permettre à une personne de suivre le programme de formation pour les chefs de quart de la salle de commande, conformément à la soumission d'Ontario Power Generation, même si cette personne a exercé les tâches d'opérateur nucléaire autorisé pendant moins d'un an.

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Signed/signé le

8 July 2019



Gerry Frappier

Director General

Directorate of Power Reactor Regulation

Directeur général de la

Direction de la réglementation des centrales nucléaires

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OPG has requested a one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants*, which requires an Authorized Nuclear Operator (ANO) to safely and competently perform duties of an ANO, for a minimum of one year, prior to beginning training as Control Room Shift Supervisor (CRSS).

The one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204 is requested to allow a specific candidate, as identified in OPG's submission, to progress through the CRSS training program. This will be the last CRSS training prior to the end of commercial operations for Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) 5-8.

The candidate received Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) certification as an ANO on September 20, 2018, and thus one year has not passed since that date to allow the candidate to meet the requirements of section 26.1 of RD-204. Consequently, an exemption to the minimum experience requirement of one year is required to allow this candidate to progress through the last CRSS training program and eventually obtain CNSC certification as a CRSS upon completion of the other requirements.

CNSC staff have evaluated the licensee's submission and recommends that the request be granted. CNSC staff conclude that there are no unreasonable risks to the environment, health and safety of persons, national security or impacts to international obligations from the proposed one-time exemption.

Referenced documents in this CMD are available to the public upon request.

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Background

OPG has requested a one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants*, which requires an Authorized Nuclear Operator (ANO) to safely and competently perform duties of an ANO, for a minimum of one year, prior to beginning training as Control Room Shift Supervisor (CRSS).

1.2 Highlights

The one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204 is required to allow a specific candidate, as identified in OPG's request (this personal information is treated as protected), to progress through the CRSS training program, which began in April 2019. This will be the last CRSS training prior to the end of commercial operations for Pickering NGS 5-8 in 2024.

The candidate received CNSC certification as an ANO on September 20, 2018. Consequently one year has not passed since that date to meet the requirements of section 26.1 of RD-204. Given the individual's performance as an ANO, OPG is confident that the candidate will successfully progress through the CRSS training program and complete other prerequisite requirements from RD-204 to obtain CNSC certification as a CRSS, in the case the RD-204 exemption is granted.

CNSC staff have evaluated the licensee's submission and determined that the request is acceptable.

2 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 Environmental Assessment

CNSC staff have determined that the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* does not apply. CNSC staff have reviewed the licensee's request and have concluded that there are no environmental interactions associated with the proposed one-time licence exemption, and thus there are no impacts to the environment and health of persons.

2.2 Regulatory and Technical Basis

CNSC staff have reviewed the licensee's request [1] and determined that the one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204 is acceptable. The basis for the CNSC staff's assessment is detailed below.

Licence condition 2.4 of PROL 48.00/2028 states:

The licensee shall implement and maintain certification programs in accordance with CNSC regulatory document RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants*.

Persons appointed to the following positions require certification:

- (i) Responsible Health Physicist;
- (ii) Shift Manager;
- (iii) Control Room Shift Supervisor; and
- (iv) Authorized Nuclear Operator.

Section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants* states:

26.1 Minimum Experience prior to Training

The person must have safely and competently performed the duties of a reactor operator at the NPP for a minimum of one year, immediately prior to beginning training as control room shift supervisor.

OPG's request [1] highlighted three main arguments, as follows:

1. RD-204 does not specify the number of shifts or the type of work assignment to be performed during the year immediately prior to beginning CRSS training and as a result the practical work experience of the candidates entering the program can vary greatly;
2. This candidate has performed 84 shifts since being certified in September 2018; and
3. This is the last opportunity for candidates to join the Pickering NGS 5-8 CRSS training program before the end of commercial operation.

RD-204 does not specify the minimum number of shifts that the certified personnel (other than those on assignments) have to work in a year. Only the certified personnel assigned to Operationally Focused Positions or Non Operationally Focused Positions, as defined in RD-204, have to perform a minimum of three shifts per quarter (12 shifts per year) and five shifts per quarter (20 shifts per year) respectively. These numbers are based on the quarterly shifts

requirements stated in sections 14.1.1 and 14.2.1 “*Minimum performance per Calendar Quarter*” of RD-204.

In recent years, some ANOs at Pickering NGS were assigned to Operationally Focused Positions prior to entering the CRSS training program and had only performed the minimum of three shifts per quarter.

CNSC staff reviewed a sample of five ANOs that advanced to the position of CRSS within the last five years and specifically looked at the number of shifts performed during the year prior to entering the CRSS training program. For the purpose of this CMD, a shift is considered “normal” when performed by personnel not assigned to another position.

- ANO 1 entered the Pickering NGS 5-8 CRSS training program on October 17, 2016 and performed 121 normal shifts during the year prior to entering the program.
- ANO 2 entered the Pickering NGS 5-8 CRSS training program on September 28, 2015 and performed 13 shifts while being assigned to an Operationally Focused Position during the year prior to entering the program.
- ANO 3 entered the Pickering NGS 1-4 CRSS training program on January 6, 2014 and performed 12 shifts while being assigned to an Operationally Focused Position during the year prior to entering the program.
- ANO 4 entered the Pickering NGS 1-4 CRSS training program on January 6, 2014 and performed 99 normal shifts during the year prior to entering the program.
- Finally, ANO 5 entered the Pickering NGS 1-4 CRSS training program on January 6, 2014 and performed 30 shifts (21 normal and 9 while being assigned to an Operationally Focused Position) during the year prior to entering the program.

These numbers show that there is a great disparity between the practical experience of candidates in the year prior to entering the CRSS program. These differences are not governed by RD-204. Future revisions of RD-204 may improve clarity around practical experience required prior to entering the CRSS program.

In addition, CNSC staff verified that there were no records of issues related to performance or safety in the personal file of these certified individuals. As a result, CNSC staff are confident that the individuals who performed the lower number of shifts because of their assignment to other positions in the year prior to entering the CRSS training program have been performing safely and competently since being certified as CRSSs.

In comparison, this candidate has performed 84 normal shifts since being certified as an ANO in September 2018 and this candidate’s level of practical experience fits within the level observed for the other certified individuals discussed above.

CNSC staff verified that there were no recent records of issues related to the performance of the candidate while working normal shifts as an ANO.

CNSC staff concur with OPG's assessment that this candidate is suitable for the CRSS training program based on a technical assessment of the candidate's shifts performed, practical experience and performance. CNSC staff are of the opinion that this candidate has acquired sufficient practical experience to enter the CRSS training program.

CNSC staff also recognize that this is the last opportunity for candidates to attend the CRSS training program at Pickering NGS 5-8 before the end of commercial operation in 2024. The CRSS training program can typically take up to five or six years to complete depending on scheduling and the candidate's performance. OPG states it is confident that this candidate is suitable and fully capable of progressing through the CRSS training program. CNSC staff concur with OPG's statement and agree that this candidate should be permitted to attend this last CRSS training program.

2.3 Aboriginal Consultation

The common law duty to consult with Indigenous peoples applies when the Crown contemplates actions that may adversely affect established or potential Indigenous and/or treaty rights. Based on the information provided in the submission, CNSC staff have determined that the activity is administrative in nature and will not cause an adverse impact on potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights. Therefore, the duty to consult has not been raised.

3 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Overall Conclusions

CNSC staff conclude that there are no unreasonable risks to the environment, health and safety of persons, national security or impacts to international obligations from the proposed one-time exemption because this candidate has achieved a similar level of experience as other candidates since receiving CNSC certification as an ANO.

3.2 Overall Recommendations

CNSC staff recommend the following:

- The Commission grant this one-time exemption to section 26.1 of RD-204, *Certification of Persons Working at Nuclear Power Plants*, to allow the specific candidate to progress through the Control Room Shift Supervisor (CRSS) training program at Pickering NGS.

REFERENCES

1. OPG Letter, Randy Lockwood to M. A. Leblanc, "Pickering NGS: Request for a One-Time Exemption to Section 26.1 of RD-204", May 3, 2019, e-Doc [5896698](#).

GLOSSARY

ANO	Authorized Nuclear Operator
CNSC	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CRSS	Control Room Shift Supervisor
OPG	Ontario Power Generation
NGS	Nuclear Generating Station
PROL	Power Reactor Operating Licence

A. BASIS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS(S)

A.1 Regulatory Basis

The regulatory basis for the recommendations presented in this CMD is as follows:

- *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, section 7 and subsection 24 (4).
- *General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations*, section 11; and
- Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence, Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, PROL 48.00/2028.