



**Written submission from
Durham College**

Mémoire du Collège Durham

In the Matter of the

À l'égard d'

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Application for a licence to construct one BWRX-300 reactor at the Darlington New Nuclear Project Site (DNNP)

Demande visant à construire 1 réacteur BWRX-300 sur le site du projet de nouvelle centrale nucléaire de Darlington (PNCND)

**Commission Public Hearing
Part-2**

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

January 2025

Janvier 2025

October 17, 2024

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St., PO Box 1046 Stn B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: CNSC Public Hearing 2024-H-03 – Darlington New Nuclear Project, OPG

This letter confirms Durham College's support for Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) license to construct a reactor facility application for the first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) at the Darlington nuclear station. Durham College has a long-standing partnership with OPG, and supports the use of the GE Hitachi BWRX-300 as the choice of technology for the SMRs being developed at the Darlington site.

Committed to innovation and sustainability, Durham College recognizes the critical role that SMRs, like the BWRX-300, will play in the future of clean energy. The BWRX-300 offers a safe, efficient, and low-carbon solution that aligns with Ontario's broader decarbonization efforts, and we commend OPG's dedication to advancing this technology. The decision by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to affirm the applicability of the existing environmental assessment (EA) to this new reactor technology is a significant milestone, providing a solid foundation for moving forward with construction.

The Darlington Nuclear site has an impressive track record of safety, as demonstrated by the success of projects such as the Darlington Refurbishment. We are confident that OPG, in collaboration with its experienced contract partners, will maintain these high standards during the construction and eventual operation of the BWRX-300.

Since 2005 Durham College and OPG have partnered on training initiatives and collaborative projects that have helped expand training capabilities and countless students achieve their goals. OPG has invested more than \$20 million in education and training, including the construction of the OPG Centre for Skilled Trades and Technology at Durham College's Whitby campus, which opened to students in 2021. Beyond direct investments, OPG partners with the college on key training initiatives such as females in welding and Indigenous peoples in electrician programs to attract diverse talent to the trades and power industry.

As a post-secondary institution with a strong focus on technology, skilled trades, and energy-related programs, Durham College is particularly enthusiastic about the workforce development opportunities this project presents. The construction of the BWRX-300, and potentially up to four units, will require a highly trained and competent workforce. We are eager to collaborate with OPG in preparing the next generation of skilled professionals who will support the nuclear energy sector. This partnership will create pathways for our students to gain hands-on experience and expertise in an industry that is not only vital to Ontario's energy future but also to the broader goals of sustainability and economic growth.

We look forward to continuing to engage with OPG as this important project progresses.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elaine Popp
President
Durham College