



**Written submission from
Women in Nuclear Canada**

**Mémoire de
Women in Nuclear Canada**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard d'

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Application to extend the operation of
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Units 5 to 8 until December 31, 2026

Demande visant à prolonger l'exploitation
des tranches 5 à 8 de la centrale nucléaire de
Pickering jusqu'au 31 décembre 2026

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

June 2024

Juin 2024



Reference 2024-H-05: Submission regarding Ontario Power Generation – Application to extend the operation of Pickering NGS until December 31, 2026



April 2024

Women in Nuclear Canada, established in 2004, represents over 2000 women and men across Canada. WiN-Canada goals are:

- To develop a dialogue with the public and with other women, to promote awareness around the factual contribution to people and society from nuclear technologies.
- To contribute to knowledge and experience exchange among members and chapters.
- To promote career interest in nuclear engineering, science, technology, the trades, and other nuclear-related professions, especially among women and young people. In our industry, made up of a little less than 20 percent women, our organization works to showcase the vital contribution women are making as leaders in the nuclear industry.

WiN-Canada believes that knowledge exchange between our members about all aspects of the industry provides them with the information necessary to help educate our family, friends and their communities. Women are strong opinion leaders in our country. Because of its efforts to promote the careers of women, WiN-Canada has become a strong, credible voice in the nuclear industry. It is important for our voice to be heard, including our support of all aspects of the nuclear industry, at these Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (PNGS) License Extension to 2026.

Supporting Continued Operations to 2026 for PNGS Units 5-8

Pickering NGS plays an important role in providing clean, safe, reliable, and low-cost electricity.

Continued operations of Pickering NGS Units 5 to 8 to the end of 2026 will have many benefits to the province, the economy, and the environment, including:

- Reducing CO2 emissions by 2.1 megatonnes in 2026 – the equivalent of taking up to 643,000 cars off the road.
- Extending the need for 4,500 skilled jobs for approximately 2 years.
- Ensuring a stable supply of Cobalt-60, a critical medical isotope used in lifesaving medicine (Pickering provides 20% of the North American supply – and 10% of the world's supply).





Continued operations of Pickering will provide much-needed electricity while Darlington and Bruce Power's units are being refurbished. Pickering's operations are essential to providing baseload power for the province during that time.

Performance

The safety of the public and staff is OPG's top priority. Pickering Nuclear has been maintained and safely operated for more than 50 years.

Station reliability at Pickering NGS has improved significantly due to investments and improvements made over the licensing period. Combined with one of the best forced loss rate performances, Pickering NGS is continuing to achieve improved and more reliable operation, which in turn improves nuclear safety at the station.

Pickering NGS staffing numbers will be maintained throughout the licensing period, ensuring that staff are qualified and competent to operate the plant.

Climate Change

In 2020, OPG introduced a new climate change plan to create a cleaner environment to help tackle climate change, with the goal of becoming a net-zero carbon company by 2040 and helping the markets that OPG operates in achieve net-zero carbon economies by 2050. The guiding principle of this climate change plan is to be the catalyst that enables the transformation to clean economies, doing this in the most efficient and responsible way possible and respecting the best interests of the community. Currently, Ontario's electricity sector accounts for just 2% of the province's total greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Climate Change Plan, OPG has provisions in place to be a net-zero company by 2040. OPG will continue to be a climate leader by investing in and implementing CO₂ reductions and offsets to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. In order to meet that goal, OPG is investing in negative emission technologies and continuing to support nature-based solutions like tree-planting programs.

Cobalt

Pickering reactors produce Cobalt-60 which is extracted and used in the irradiation and sterilization of single-use medical devices, such as syringes, gloves, implants, and surgical instruments. Pickering Nuclear produces about 20% of the world's supply of Co-60, making Ontario the one of the leading sources of medical isotope.





Indigenous Relations

OPG is committed to building mutually beneficial working relationships with Indigenous communities near its current and future operations. These relationships are built on a foundation of respect for the culture, customs, and rights of Indigenous peoples.

Pickering engages with the Williams Treaties First Nations, the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte, and the Metis Nation of Ontario through ongoing meetings about Pickering's environmental performance, career fair participation, site tours, and funding for community events.

OPG meets regularly with Indigenous community representatives and members to share information, discuss development initiatives, and review planned project activities.

In its commitment to ongoing and meaningful engagement, OPG has established a number of Agreements with the local Indigenous Nations and others that have expressed interest in engaging with the company. These Agreements are intended to provide longer-term capacity to support regular touchpoints and ongoing engagement related to OPG's operations and initiatives.

OPG launched its first-ever Reconciliation Action Plan in October 2021 which outlined commitments with clear actions and timelines for advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Nations, communities, and peoples in the areas of procurement, employment, environmental stewardship, and relationships. Some of the highlights include:

- \$57.8 million in Indigenous spend against a \$56 million target.
- 69 new Purchase Orders issued with Indigenous suppliers against a target of 30.
- OPG hired a team across Canada to source new Indigenous vendors to add to the database.
- \$21 million in distributions from our equity partnerships to Indigenous partners.
- 21 Indigenous Opportunities Network (ION) candidates onboarded against a target of 20.

It is essential for us to stress that WiN-Canada members are highly skilled workers and would not be working in the nuclear industry if we did not believe in the technology and its safety. It is important to all of us that when we leave for work in the morning, we know that we will return safely at the end of the day and that our families and friends who live in our communities will be safe every day. Due to our day-to-day interaction with the nuclear industry and our strong belief in the expertise of PNGS's employees and their proven history of safe operation, WiN-Canada supports the application before the Commission.

