



**Written submission from the
Pickering Naturalists**

**Mémoire de
Pickering Naturalists**

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

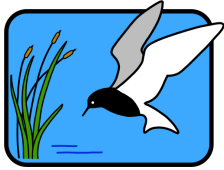
Demande visant à prolonger l'exploitation
des tranches 5 à 8 de la centrale nucléaire de
Pickering jusqu'au 31 décembre 2026

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

June 2024

Juin 2024



PICKERING NATURALISTS

Pickering Naturalists
Box 304
Pickering, Ontario.
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April 25, 2024

Senior Tribunal Officer
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street,
PO Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

The Pickering Naturalists would like to provide comments regarding OPG's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station public hearing (reference **2024-H-05**). We wish to intervene through this written submission only, and do not request an oral presentation.

Pickering Naturalists supports the continued operation of Pickering Units 5 through 8 for the period through December 31, 2026.

Our comments are specifically in regard 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 in 1977. The organization is composed of residents of the Durham region and eastern Toronto 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 we advocate for the protection, preservation and restoration of natural habitat in our area. We also provide educational programs for the public, including guided nature hikes in Durham Region.

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 - through ongoing 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.
2. Bring back the salmon - 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 school children to get 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, local children have had an 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 decade, OPG has worked with the Canadian Peregrine Foundation to support the successful breeding program of this species at risk. Multiple Peregrine Falcon chicks hatched at the nest located at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

As naturalists, we worry about the looming ecological damage which results from greenhouse gases. We already see those effects in the changing patterns of migratory birds and insects. Hundreds of species of plants and animals face habitat risk and possible extinction in Canada due to a warming planet. We feel that safely operated nuclear power is a critically important piece of the carbon reduction equation which is necessary to mitigate climate change.

Pickering Nuclear and OPG have made tremendous accomplishments 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.

For more than a decade, individuals of the Pickering Naturalists have served on the Pickering Nuclear Community Advisory Council (CAC). Through our CAC participation, our members have gained deep insight into the operations of the station operations. We understand the commitment that OPG has made to ongoing training, plant safety culture, maintenance and modernization activities that have led to the continued safe operation of the facility. We have confidence in OPG's ability to run Pickering units 5 to 8 with safety and reliability through 2026.

Sincerely,



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