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Written submission from **CANDU Owners Group**

Mémoire de CANDU Owners Group

Regulatory Oversight Report for Canadian Nuclear Power **Generating Sites for 2023**

Rapport de surveillance réglementaire des sites nucléaires pour 2023

Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

February 25, 2025

Le 25 février 2025



CANDU Owners Group Inc.



"Excellence Through Collaboration"

January 7, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Secretariat c/o Ms. Julie Bouchard Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission 280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046 Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Email: cnsc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

Subject: Regulatory Oversight Report for Canadian Nuclear Power Generating Stations for 2023.

Dear Ms. Bouchard,

This submission supports the Regulatory Oversight Report for Canadian Nuclear Power Generating Stations for 2023. The CANDU Owners Group (COG) membership includes all owners of CANDU reactors, both in Canada and internationally. COG's vision is to achieve excellence through collaboration in CANDU and advanced nuclear technologies. In partnership with its members, suppliers, research institutions, and other organizations, COG continuously innovates nuclear plant equipment and processes to ensure the highest safety, efficiency, and environmental performance standards.

To fulfill our mission, COG is organized around the following five operational program areas:

- Nuclear Safety and Environmental Affairs
- Information Exchange
- Learning and Development
- Research and Development, and
- Joint Projects

Bruce Power, Ontario Power Generation, and New Brunswick Power play significant roles by contributing expertise, sharing experiences with others, and contributing to or playing a lead role in all program areas. Nuclear safety is the top priority for our members.

Key results which have been achieved and enhanced through the full involvement of the Canadian nuclear utilities in collaboration via COG include:

Safety Analysis improvements:

- Aging Management assessments
- Probabilistic and Deterministic Safety assessments

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- Severe Accident studies and management
- Analysis of external hazards
- Modifications to plant and procedures to enhance safety

Numerous projects to ensure ongoing safe, long-term operation, including:

- Fuel Channel Life Management
- Research into pressure tube behaviour and longevity
- Optimization of plant processes through innovation and artificial intelligence
- Plant modernization
- Waste management and minimization

Through COG's network of peer teams, staff from CANDU owners collaborate to enhance plant safety and operations. They focus on key areas such as Human Performance, Equipment Reliability, and Radiation Protection. By sharing their experiences and developing common approaches, CANDU owners can support each other, as well as international members and emerging nuclear utilities. The CANDU Owners are also leveraging their over 40 years of knowledge towards deploying advanced technologies and SMRs to ensure safe, reliable, and clean electricity is available worldwide.

Alongside their dedication to nuclear safety, CANDU owners prioritize the training and development of their staff. Each year, these utilities participate in the COG Nuclear Professional Development Seminar by sending employees who are transitioning into or have recently started leadership roles within the industry. This is a three-week intensive course covering topics like safety culture, strategic thinking, and leadership traits.

On an international level, CANDU owners have substantially contributed to the reference documents and standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Their efforts particularly focus on enhancing nuclear safety after the Fukushima incident. This includes developing responses to events involving loss of electrical power, modifying plant equipment to improve safety, and implementing aging management strategies for Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors.

Due to the ongoing collaboration and dedication to continuous improvement by CANDU owners, COG supports the CNSC staff's conclusion that the nuclear power plants and waste management facilities at their sites in Canada were safely operated and complied with the applicable requirements for all safety and control areas in 2023.

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Sincerely,

Rachna Clavero

President and CEO

CANDU Owners Group