Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

CMD 26-H7.25

Date: 2026-08-11

Written Submission from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

Mémoire des Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens

In the matter of

À l'égard de

Ontario Power Generation

Ontario Power Generation

Application to refurbish Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and to renew licences for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and Waste Management Facility

Demande concernant la réfection de la centrale nucléaire de Pickering et le renouvellement de ses permis pour la centrale et l'installation de gestion des déchets

Commission Public Hearing
Part 2

Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2

October 2026

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Canada

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories | Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens

2026/08/10

Commission Registry
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
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Intervention Supporting the Renewal of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station's Power Reactor Operating Licence for a 10-Year Term

Dear Commission Secretariat:

On behalf of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL), I am writing to voice my strong support for Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) requesting renewal of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station's Power Reactor Operating Licence for a 10-year term. I respectfully request that this CNL intervention be considered in your deliberations to approve the OPG application.

For background, CNL is the operator of Canada's national nuclear laboratories, in particular the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL). These laboratories serve as the foundation of Canada's nuclear sector and provided the research and development work which underpinned the CANDU power reactor design. Decades later, CNL continues to support nuclear operators and utilities through scientific research to improve reactor performance and respond to emergent issues; life extension initiatives that enable long-term operations; and innovation that develops technologies to support reactor modernization and efficiencies. This research builds an extensive body of knowledge enabling operators to make sound, science-informed decisions about their fleet.

For decades, the Pickering Nuclear Generation Station has generated clean, safe and reliable baseload power for the people, businesses and communities of Ontario, a critical service that today supplies the province with approximately 10 per cent of its electricity. Thanks to

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organizations like Pickering, Ontario's electricity grid is one of the cleanest in the world and is over 90 per cent emissions-free, a result which is only achievable thanks to low greenhouse gas emitting resources such as nuclear.

With both the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada focused on achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 to combat climate change, and Ontario's electricity demand expected to increase by 65 per cent during that period, the clean energy generated by Pickering is more important than ever. Refurbishing the Pickering station and extending and optimizing output of low greenhouse gas emitting electricity makes sense to help Ontario reach these growing electricity needs.

Most importantly, like CNL, Pickering maintains an unwavering commitment to safe operations. CNL knows OPG to be a recognized leader in workplace safety with a highly trained and qualified workforce. As the operator of multiple nuclear sites, CNL understands the importance of nurturing a strong workplace culture that embraces safety, procedural adherence, a questioning attitude and organizational learning.

OPG is well-positioned to complete this work safely and in accordance with all regulatory requirements following the Darlington Refurbishment Project, which was successfully completed ahead of schedule and under budget. With the skills, knowledge, and hand-on experience learned on the Darlington Refurbishment project, and significant experience being gained through the construction of the G7's first Small Modular Reactor, OPG, its partners, and Ontario's nuclear supply chain are collectively positioned to apply these lessons and capabilities to ensure Pickering's life-extension is completed safely and successfully.

Once completed, the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station will continue to offer tremendous benefits to the Province of Ontario, including more than 2,100 MW of low-carbon, reliable nuclear power for another 30-plus years, powering approximately two million homes and businesses across Ontario, safely and reliably. This is in addition to the provision of thousands of highly skilled jobs across the province, and the creation of significant economic impacts of billions of dollars over the course of the refurbishment period in Durham Region, Ontario and Canada.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, refurbishing and operating Pickering Nuclear will increase Ontario's Gross Domestic Product by over $38 billion over the lifespan of the project, including $17 billion during the refurbishment phase. On a national level, the project is expected to increase Canada's Gross Domestic Product by more than $41 billion over the same period. Approximately 85 - 90% of spending is expected to stay within the province, supporting Ontario's businesses and economy.

Given their strong track record in safe operations, the essential role that Pickering plays in electricity generation in Ontario, and the many economic, social and environmental benefits to

residents of both Ontario and Canada, CNL offers its full support to OPG for this licence application.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 613-602-7167. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Osborne
Chief Nuclear Officer and Vice-President, Central Technical Authority
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

cc:

S. Brewer	C. Gallagher	P. Kompass
>CR Licensing		