



CMD 26-H7.30

Date: 2026-08-11

**Written Submission from
Pickering Naturalists**

**Mémoire de
Pickering Naturalists**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

Ontario Power Generation

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

Ontario Power Generation

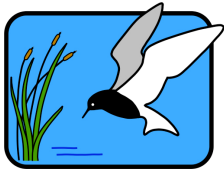
Demande concernant la réfection de la
centrale nucléaire de Pickering et le
renouvellement de ses permis pour la
centrale et l'installation de gestion des
déchets

**Commission Public Hearing
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2**

October 2026

Octobre 2026



PICKERING
NATURALISTS

Pickering Naturalists
Box 304
Pickering, Ontario.
L1V 2R6

August 10, 2026

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

Re: Renewal Application for Pickering Nuclear Generating Station Power Reactor
Operating Licence and Pickering Waste Facility Operating Licence

The Pickering Naturalists would like to provide comments regarding OPG's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station public hearing (reference **CMD 26-H7**). We wish to intervene through this written submission only, and do not request an oral presentation.

Pickering Naturalists supports the refurbishment and operation of Pickering Units 5 through 8 as well as the consolidation of activities which are now licenced under the Pickering Waste Facility Operating Licence into the proposed 10-year operating licence.

Our comments are related to:

1. Pickering Naturalists first-hand experience with OPG's commitment to environmental education and habitat restoration in our community and the greater Durham area;
 2. my participation as a member of the Community Advisory Council (a separate intervention by that group) and;
 3. my board activities with local and provincial conservation organizations which have worked with OPG over decades on environmental projects.
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1. 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.

- a) **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.

Please note the attached photo taken a few weeks ago from a hillside in Alex Robertson Park, looking south towards the plant. Formerly a monoculture lawn, this park is now teeming with bird and insect life in a diverse plant community.

- b) **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.
- c) **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.
- d) OPG has worked with the **Canadian Peregrine Foundation** for over a decade to support the successful breeding program of this species at risk. Generations of Peregrine Falcon chicks have 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.

2. Participation as a member of the Pickering Nuclear Community Advisory Council (CAC).

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 refurbish and operate Pickering units 5 to 8 with safety and reliability.

3. OPG's relationship with local and provincial nature organizations.

I served on the board of directors for Ontario Nature for 8 years, and on the board of the Thickson's Woods Heritage Foundation (a nature reserve in Whitby) for 15 years. During those terms, I had the opportunity to meet with multiple OPG staff at events. OPG staff are passionate about the organization's responsibility to be a good steward of the land and the environment. OPG is a long-time sponsor of the Ontario Nature Youth Circle for Mother Earth, a project aimed to create and support a cross-cultural network of Indigenous and non-Indigenous environmental leaders.

OPG has always been ready to support our public engagement activities with resources and sponsorship.

Sincerely,



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Alex Robertson Park – naturalization project, looking south to the station, July 2026.