



CMD 26-H7.35

Date: 2026-08-12

**Written Submission from
North American Young Generation
in Nuclear (NAYGN) - Durham**

**Mémoire de
North American Young Generation
in Nuclear (NAYGN) - Durham**

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

Dear President and Commission Members,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to intervene in this public hearing. We are submitting this intervention on behalf of the North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) Durham Chapter in support of the Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Renewal Application for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) Power Reactor and Pickering Waste Facility Operating Licenses.

NAYGN is an association of young professionals and students passionate about the nuclear industry and is focused on professional development, public relations, networking, and community outreach. There are currently over 150 chapters across North America with around 38 chapters in Canada.

NAYGN Durham is a local chapter, which started its journey in 2008. The chapter organizes various social, professional development, and community events such as industry tours, technical seminars, lunch & learns, and informative sessions in the region. Our chapter proudly has over 1500 members.

With the Pickering license renewal, OPG will continue to demonstrate its ability to safely operate nuclear reactors with public and personnel health and safety as their overriding priority. The province will continue to benefit from this source of clean and reliable electricity which not only supports the Canadian economy but also contributes strongly to our fight against global climate change. Renewing the operating license of Pickering B (Units 5–8) would secure more than 2,100 MW of clean, reliable nuclear power for Ontario for more than 30 years [1].

The following reasons and examples are why NAYGN Durham is strongly in support of renewing the license of Pickering NGS.

Pickering Nuclear and NAYGN Durham Chapter Community Engagement

NAYGN Durham has observed firsthand the significant impact OPG and Pickering Nuclear have had on our communities. Beyond serving as a major employer, OPG has supported extensive community engagement, public education, and workforce development initiatives that have made a tangible contribution to the surrounding communities.

The NAYGN Durham chapter and OPG have actively partnered on a variety of community initiatives. Our public outreach teams work collaboratively to increase awareness of nuclear energy, its environmental benefits, and its role in addressing climate change. Engineers, scientists, and skilled tradespeople from both organizations regularly visit classrooms to introduce students to the science behind nuclear energy and electricity generation, while providing firsthand insight into careers and daily life at a nuclear power plant. With 9 schools visited and over 900 attendees present in the first half of 2026, these visits give students the opportunity to engage directly with nuclear industry professionals, ask questions about their work, explore the fundamentals of nuclear energy, and develop an interest in STEM fields with the support of OPG.

Another creative collaboration between NAYGN Durham and OPG is Take Your Parents to Work Day, a joint initiative hosted at Pickering in 2024 and 2025, with the 2026 event being held at Darlington. NAYGN Durham invites parents, relatives, and friends to learn about nuclear energy through presentations from OPG professionals on Radiation Protection, Emergency Management, CANDU technology, Nuclear Operations, Isotope production, complemented by simulator and site bus tours. By providing direct access to nuclear professionals and facilities, the event promotes accessible nuclear education and strengthens public understanding of the nuclear industry.

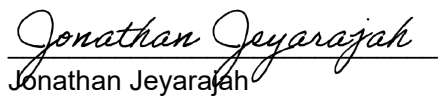
OPG and NAYGN Durham also collaborate on knowledge-transfer and professional development initiatives that prepare the next generation of nuclear professionals. These include webinars and educational sessions on CANDU fuel handling, differences between the Pickering and Darlington system designs, CANDU technology, the BWRX-300 Small Modular Reactor, as well as speed networking events that connect young professionals with experienced OPG leaders and staff. Together, these initiatives facilitate the transfer of industry knowledge and experience while helping develop the workforce that will support Ontario's nuclear industry for decades.

Employment Opportunities for Young Workers

Pickering Refurbishment will require a diverse range of interdisciplinary expertise, including engineering, skilled trades, operations, human resources, project management, regulatory affairs, and many such opportunities, making an extension of the Power Reactor Operating License (PROL) essential to enabling this work. For young professionals, this license extension creates a pathway to stable, high-quality careers in a sector that is critical to Ontario's clean energy future. This will provide young professionals with opportunities to enter and grow within the nuclear industry, develop specialized skills, and learn from an experienced workforce. In doing so, Pickering Refurbishment will help expand Canada's nuclear workforce and develop the next generation of professionals needed to support Ontario's nuclear industry for decades to come.

Conclusion

The continued operation of the PNGS is vital for meeting Ontario's energy needs and sustaining its positive impact on communities. NAYGN Durham supports granting the necessary license renewal to enable OPG to continue contributing to our region's social, economic, and environmental well-being. We urge the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to consider our intervention and support the PNGS's operating license extension. This would benefit our community and uphold safety, sustainability, and community engagement principles.



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Contributions

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References

- [1] "Our story | OPG set to refurbish Pickering Nuclear to secure decades more reliable, low-carbon power for Ontario – OPG," Dec. 2025. Accessed: Aug. 10, 2026. [Online]. Available: <https://www.opg.com/stories/opg-set-to-refurbish-pickering-nuclear-to-secure-decades-more-reliable-low-carbon-power-for-ontario/>