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Oral Presentation

Submission from Erin O'Toole, MP, Durham

Exposé oral

Mémoire de Erin O'Toole, député, Durham

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

Ontario Power Generation Inc., Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Ontario Power Generation Inc., centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Request for a ten-year renewal of its Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Demande de renouvellement, pour une période de dix ans, de son permis d'exploitation d'un réacteur nucléaire de puissance à la centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Commission Public Hearing – Part 2

Audience publique de la Commission – Partie 2

June 2018

Juin 2018









Hon. Erin O'Toole, P.C., C.D.

Member of Parliament/Député
Durham

Ottawa

Room 621 Wellington Building Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 Tel.: 613-992-2792 Fax: 613-992-2794

Constituency

54 King Street East Suite 103 Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 1N3 Tel.: 905-697-1699 Fax: 905-697-1678

Ottawa

Pièce 621 Édifice Wellington Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6 Tél.: 613-992-2792 Téléc.: 613-992-2794

Circonscription

54, rue King est Suite 103 Bowmanville (Ontario) L1C 1N3

Tél.: 905-697-1699 Téléc.: 905-697-1678 May 4, 2018

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission 280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B Ottawa, ON, K1P 559

Re: Ontario Power Generation Power Reactor Operating Licence (PROL) renewal – Pickering Nuclear

Dear Commission Secretariat,

Today I write in full support of the application by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to extend the operating licence of Pickering Nuclear to 2024. As the Member of Parliament for the riding of Durham, and as a resident of Durham Region prior to my election, I can attest to the high degree of confidence I have in the Ontario Power Generation staff, as well as their focus on safety and transparent communications – all of which has had a positive impact on the community.

OPG has demonstrated to the community that the ongoing staff training and investments at Pickering, including the replacement and upgrading of equipment, have resulted in top-notch safety performance. In fact, OPG's commitment to safety at Pickering and Darlington is well-recognized, and is one of the regular topics included in their quarterly newsletters and shared with our community, along with communications on emergency planning.

OPG's dedication to the environment is also recognized in our community. The publishing of their Annual Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) provides the community with reassurances that operations have no impact on the public or the environment. Their collaboration on environmental activities with local schools, conservation authorities, and environmental activities throughout the year has had a positive impact on the fabric of our local community -- whether through tree plantings, Yellow Fish road initiatives, Bring Back the Salmon program or simply through supporting local school children as they learn about electricity.

Erin.OToole@parl.gc.ca
@ErinOTooleMP



As the MP for Durham, I have seen that OPG ensures regular dialogue with the community. Regular station updates, tours and station visits, presentations to local community groups and councils, print communication and the station hosting of the Pickering and Darlington Community Advisory Councils, are some of the OPG activities that ensure an open dialogue with the community.

As OPG is a top employer in the Durham Riding, I often take the opportunity to showcase their nuclear operations when hosting visitors to the area, and to highlight the breadth of the nuclear supply chain across the country and here in the Durham riding. With the excellent performance of Pickering, safety-focused investments such as the Training and Mock Up facility at Darlington, the Darlington refurbishment and OPG's continued focus on innovations across the fleet, there is always a great deal to discuss. OPG's continued operations and investments in our community led me to form a federal Nuclear Caucus with my MP colleagues several years ago. Although with the change in federal leadership, the committee no longer meets regularly, I remain engaged with other MPs and colleagues federally on the nuclear file and advancements in the industry and the many opportunities the industry can provide for skilled trades and nuclear professionals attending post-secondary institutions or seeking employment in my riding.

The positive impact that OPG's operations across Durham Region have on our community is well-recognized. They have an important job to do and they appear to take safety training and public engagement very seriously. From an economic development standpoint, there is no doubt that as a major corporation and top employer there are any number of positive economic effects that occur in our community on a daily basis. However, more importantly, OPG is known to be a tremendous corporate citizen that truly cares about the community in which it operates, and who is widely considered a highly-valued community partner.

In summary, as an outstanding corporate citizen with a continual focus on safety, I am pleased to support OPG's ten-year licence renewal application for Pickering Nuclear, and could provide an oral intervention should the Part 2 hearing dates align with my schedule in Ottawa.

Sincerely,

Hon. Erin O'Toole, P.C., C.D.

Member of Parliament, Durham