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Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from the
Canadian Nuclear
Workers' Council**

**Mémoire du
Conseil canadien des
travailleurs du nucléaire**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

Darlington New Nuclear Project

**Projet de nouvelle centrale nucléaire de
Darlington**

Application to renew the nuclear power
reactor site preparation licence for the
Darlington New Nuclear Project

Demande de renouvellement du permis de
préparation de l'emplacement d'une centrale
nucléaire pour le projet de nouvelle centrale
nucléaire de Darlington

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

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Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

244 Eglinton Ave E, Toronto, ON, Canada M4P 1K2 | Tel: 416-804-5542 | cnwc-cctn.ca

May 03, 2021

Members of the Commission
C/O Louise Levert
Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Secrétariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St. P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5S9
Interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca

CNWC Submission regarding Ontario Power Generation's application to renew the Power Reactor Site Preparation Licence (PRSL) for the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) Ref 2021-H-04

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council (CNWC) would like to thank the CNSC for the opportunity to submit our thoughts on the application from Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) to renew the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) Power Reactor Site Preparation Licence (PRSL), PRSL 18.00/2022.

Please accept this letter as our written submission. We also request the opportunity to make an oral presentation at the Public Hearing scheduled for June 9-10, 2021.

The CNWC is in complete support of OPG's application to renew the DNNP PRSL for a period of 10 years.

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

The CNWC was formed in 1993 as an association of Unions representing Workers across Canada's nuclear industry. Our Membership encompasses uranium mines and mills, nuclear fuel production, nuclear power plant (NPP) operation and maintenance, engineering, NPP construction and refurbishment, medical isotope production, nuclear research and development, nuclear waste handling and decommissioning. Our Membership also includes District Labour Councils in a number of host communities.

Most of the Women and Men employed at OPG's Darlington NPP and at the Darlington Refurbishment Project are represented by the Power Workers' Union, the Society of United Professionals, Members of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of

Ontario (Ontario Building Trades) or the Society of Professional Engineers and Associates. Those Unions will also be representing people employed at the DNNP through its evolution. Those Unions, as well as the Durham Region Labour Council, are all Members of the CNWC.

The goals of the CNWC are to:

- ensure the perspectives of Canada's Nuclear Workers are heard by decision makers,
- strengthen the collective role of Nuclear Workers via their Unions as partners in Canada's Nuclear Industries, and
- enhance public knowledge about the many benefits of Canada's Nuclear Industry.

In addition to interventions, we undertake a number of activities to help accomplish our goals:

- The CNWC Board of Directors meets regularly.
- Representatives from our Member Unions get together at conferences located close to our various industry partners. This is an opportunity to learn more about Canada's Nuclear Industry, talk about current issues, network and learn from our experiences. We've held a conference in Oshawa and had the opportunity to tour the Darlington Nuclear Site.
- We maintain a website. www.cnwc-cctn.ca
- We publish a seasonal newsletter.

Maintaining the highest standards of health and safety is a fundamental value shared by all CNWC Member Unions. Its importance cannot be overstated. We share information with each other and work collaboratively with our employers to ensure we cultivate strong safety cultures. When our workplaces are safe it's better for the environment and it's better for our communities. We live, work and play in our nuclear host communities along with our friends and families. Our Members are nuclear professionals and take their responsibilities seriously. Nothing is more important.

The CNWC is an active participant in the regulatory process. We participate in environmental assessments, intervene at CNSC licence hearings, comment on the annual Regulatory Oversight Reports (ROR), participate in CNSC Stakeholder Consultations and comment on the evolution of CNSC Regulatory Documents. We participated in OPG's community consultation sessions on the DNNP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and in 2011 we made written and oral submissions to the Joint Review Panel (JRP).

In preparation for this submission we reviewed:

- OPG's licence application,

- Online information provided by OPG,
- CNSC staff's assessment Ref CMD 21-H4,
- OPG's written submission Ref CMD 21-H4.1,
- Regulatory Oversight Report for Canadian Nuclear Power Generating Sites for 2019 and Darlington Refurbishment Update Ref CMD 20-M24,

We also reached out to the CNWC Members that will be involved with this project and asked for their thoughts. The Power Workers' Union, the Society of United Professionals and the Ontario Building Trades all voiced their support and each plan on making submissions. This application is for the renewal of an existing site preparation licence with a valid EA and no new scope so there is limited new information to discuss with our Members. The CNWC has committed to continue reaching out and updating our Members as OPG completes their vendor/design selection process and submits an application to the CNSC for a licence to construct.

We recognize that the technology choice for the DNNP is outside the scope of this PRSL renewal hearing, and the selection is a confidential process, but we encourage OPG to engage with the CNWC and the affected Unions as early as possible. Early engagement with Labour, during the technology selection process, is important and mutually beneficial.

The Darlington New Nuclear Project

Ontario Power Generation is the Licensee for the DNNP PRSL (PRSL 18.00/2022). The new nuclear project will be located on OPG's Darlington Site in the Municipality of Clarington, Ontario. The Darlington site is currently home to four 881 MW CANDU Reactors, a tritium removal facility and a used fuel management facility. The site and facilities are owned and operated by OPG. Darlington Unit 2 first came into service in 1990 and all four Units were in service by 1993. After 3 decades of operation the Darlington reactors are being refurbished. Unit 2 has been successfully refurbished and returned to service. The refurbishment of Unit 3 is now underway.

In 2009 OPG submitted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and an application for a site preparation licence for their new nuclear project. The CNWC participated in a number of OPG's community consultation sessions on the EIS. In 2011 a Joint Review Panel (JRP) completed a public hearing on the EA. The CNWC participated with written and oral submissions. The JRP concluded that, with OPG's proposed mitigating measures and the recommendations from the JRP, the project would not likely result in any significant adverse environmental effects. In 2012 the Government of Canada accepted the JRP's recommendation and OPG was subsequently issued a Power Reactor Site Preparation Licence (PRSL) valid until August 2022. This was the subject of a legal challenge but the EA and site preparation licence were upheld in court.

Meanwhile OPG decided to defer construction of a new nuclear project. OPG did not progress the site preparation activities allowed by the PRSL but they did continue to meet the licence conditions and address some of the commitments made in the EA.

OPG submitted an application to renew the PRSL in June 2020. The CNWC was briefed by OPG and was fully aware that this would be happening. The scope of the project is unchanged from the original application made in 2009. OPG has not yet selected a reactor technology for the Darlington new nuclear project but is expected to submit an application to the CNSC in 2022 for a licence to construct.

CNSC Staff Assessment

The CNWC is in full support of the CNSC Staff assessment and conclusions as found in CMD: 21-H4. The CNWC believes that CNSC Staff considered the appropriate information and reached the appropriate conclusions, specifically:

- a. A JRP, under the CEAA (1992), completed an EA in 2012 and determined that the proposed project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The scope of the renewal application is within the bounds of the approved EA (section 2.1),
- b. OPG's performance in all relevant safety and control areas (SCAs) at the DNNP was rated as 'satisfactory' (sections 2.2 and 4),
- c. The DNNP site remains suitable and the existing licencing basis for DNNP remains valid (sections 3.4 and 3.5),
- d. The CNWC received support from the CNSC's PFP and information relevant to the public hearing from both OPG and the CNSC (sections 5.2 and 5.6),
- e. CNSC Staff conclusion that OPG is qualified to carry out the activities authorized by the PRSL and in carrying out those activities will make adequate provisions for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security (section 6),

The CNWC also supports CNSC Staff's recommendation to renew the PRSL, with amendments, for a period of 10 years valid to August 17, 2031 (section 6).

Additional Considerations

1. OPG's Darlington NPP has a proven record of operational excellence and the highest standards of safety.

The Darlington NPP has a history of operational performance that has ranked amongst the best in the world. Darlington has been recognized by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) and their industry peers for their excellent performance. Darlington regularly meets or exceeds regulatory requirements for all SCAs. In the most recent regulatory oversight report CNSC Staff concluded that Darlington was operated safely in 2019 and all 14 Safety and Control Areas received a rating of 'Satisfactory'. OPG has

mature, proven programs at Darlington for all SCAs including: Radiation Protection, Conventional Health and Safety, Environmental Performance, Emergency Management and Fire Protection, Waste Management, Security, Safeguards and Nuclear non-proliferation, Packing and Transport.

Darlington's high standards are continuing with OPG's Darlington Refurbishment Project. We have every reason to believe those high standards will continue through the development of the DNNP.

2. Parallel Projects

OPG successfully completed a refurbishment on Unit 2 while safely operating the remaining Units. Operations at Darlington's current facilities will not have an adverse effect on site preparations for new nuclear.

3. Strong Community support for Darlington

There is strong community support for the current NPPs at Darlington, Darlington Refurbishment and the Darlington New Nuclear Project. OPG has established a good track record as a responsible, safe operator and a good community partner. That support has been consistent through Darlington's history.

4. OPG's relationship with Labour

The Main Unions at the Darlington NPP are the Power Workers' Union (PWU) and the Society of United Professionals (Society).

a. Health and Safety

For health and safety matters there is a high degree of cooperation between representatives of OPG, the PWU and the Society. This collaboration between the workplace parties has resulted in outstanding health and safety standards and a robust safety culture. Local and corporate committees are in place now and will encompass the DNNP through the different phases of the project. Examples include:

I. Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)

JHSCs are local committees responsible for health and safety issues at the workplace under the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Ontario. The Darlington JHSC has been very active since commissioning and able to resolve issues as they arise. All parties treat safety issues seriously. The 3 workplace parties have developed an investigation process for incidents that were considered serious or a potentially serious. The workplace parties all have trained investigators and an agreement on investigations.

II. Joint Policy Committee on Health and Safety

This corporate level committee consists of the senior leadership from the PWU, the Society and OPG.

III. Joint Health and Safety Working Committee

This corporate level committee consists of the Director of Corporate Safety for OPG, Director of Wellness for OPG, two PWU representatives and two Society representatives.

IV. Joint Committee on Radiation Protection (JCRP)

This corporate level committee consists of representatives from the Society, PWU and OPG. The JCRP provides a forum to discuss radiation protection topics and develop recommendations for improvements to the radiation protection program.

Those OPG/Society/PWU corporate level committees will encompass the DNNP as it evolves. There is currently a dedicated JHSC for the Darlington Refurbishment Project which includes Representatives of the Provincial Building Trades. There will be a similar committee established for the construction phase of a new nuclear project.

b. Labour Relations

The workplace parties have all developed mature and effective working relationships. In addition to those bilateral relationships the Presidents of the PWU, the Society and OPG along with their senior leadership teams meet on a regular basis. These relationships will encompass the DNNP and continue as the DNNP progresses.

OPG and OPG's contractors have similar relationships with Representatives of the Ontario Building Trades for the Darlington Refurbishment Project.

When requested, OPG provided a tour for the Executive of the Durham Region Labour Council (DRLC). The DRLC has provided letters of support for previous Darlington licence hearings. The CNWC recently committed to the DRLC to provide updates on the DNNP. When requested, OPG also provided a tour for CNWC Conference attendees. The CNWC plans to renew this outreach to our Members regarding OPG's DNNP prior to any hearing on an application for a licence to construct.

5. Socio-economic benefits

The nuclear industry is an important part of Canada's economy and a vital part of our clean energy future. Canada's nuclear power plants, including the Darlington NPP generate clean, reliable, affordable, baseload electricity and help lead the fight against climate change. Darlington provides about 20% of Ontario's electricity and has been doing that reliably for 30 years. Our nuclear industry also produces nuclear isotopes vital for our healthcare.

Canada's nuclear industry supports high quality employment for tens of thousands of Canadians. There are between 2500-3000 people employed at Darlington. These are all high quality jobs. The type of jobs we need more of. Our nuclear industry is important for Canada and Darlington is an important part of that. New nuclear will continue to support this and promises to offer opportunities for Clarington followed by other parts of Canada.

Conclusion

The CNWC fully supports the analysis and conclusions of CNSC Staff as set out in CMD 21-H4. The DNNP site remains suitable for new nuclear generation, OPG is qualified to carry out the activities authorized by the PRSL and while carrying out those activities OPG will continue to make adequate provisions for the health and safety of people and protection of the environment.

There is a valid EA and a PRSL for the DNNP and the scope of the project has not changed from the original application made in 2009.

The CNWC looks forward to engaging with OPG as OPG considers their technology choice for the DNNP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the CNSC, CNSC Staff and all of the Intervenors in this public hearing. The transparent CNSC Licence hearings and the continuous oversight of the CNSC and CNSC Staff all serve to make our workplaces and communities safer. Thank-you.

Before closing I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support we received from the CNSC's Participant Funding Program.

In conclusion, the CNWC is in full support of OPG's application and CNSC Staff's recommendation that the DNNP PRSL be renewed, with amendments, for a period of 10 years.

Bob Walker
National Director
Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council is comprised of Locals of the following organizations: District Labour Councils (Grey/Bruce, Durham, Northumberland, Lindsay and Saint John) * International Association of Firefighters * International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers * International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers * United Steel Workers * Power Workers' Union * Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada * Public Service Alliance of Canada * Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario (Ont. Building Trades) * Society of United Professionals * Society of Professional Engineers and Associates * UNIFOR * International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers