



CMD 25-H2.50

Date: 2025-05-08

Oral Presentation

Exposé Oral

Written Submission from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries

Mémoire de l' Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries

In the matter of the

À l'égard d'

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Application to renew power reactor
operating licence for the Darlington
Nuclear Generating Station

Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Demande concernant le renouvellement
du permis d'exploitation d'un réacteur de
puissance pour la centrale nucléaire de
Darlington

Commission Public Hearing Part-2

Audience publique de la Commission Partie-2

June 24-26, 2025

24-26 juin 2025

May 8, 2025

Re: Request to present Oral Intervention for Ontario Power Generation's application to renew its power reactor operating license for the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station

Dear Commission,

My name is Brian Fehrenbach from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries and representing over 250 Canadian companies comprising the Canadian nuclear supply chain. OCNI also proudly supports our nuclear utilities, including Ontario Power Generation and its request to renew its power reactor generation license for Darlington. I would like to present an oral intervention in the in-person hearing scheduled for June 24-26, 2025.

Below is the text of my intervention.

Hello, my name is Brian Fehrenbach from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries and representing over 250 Canadian companies comprising the Canadian nuclear supply chain. I'm pleased to be here today as both a nuclear professional and a representative of the Canadian nuclear supply chain in support of Ontario Power Generation's application to renew its power reactor operating license for the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) is the leading voice of the Canadian nuclear supply chain and its over 260 members and associates. Founded in 1979, OCNI actively promotes the production of safe, clean and reliable nuclear energy, as well as the establishment of the needed infrastructure to carry out and manage nuclear projects in Canada. In 1979, the Canadian nuclear landscape looked differently than it does today, smaller and with fewer reactors,

and like today the industry was anchored by Ontario Power Generation (Ontario Hydro) and its growing nuclear fleet. Our industry has grown and changed since then and Canada remains a Tier 1 nuclear nation competing to supply products and services around the world.

And, just as it has for the last 40 years, OCNI is proud to support Ontario Power Generation in its applications to extend or construct on new nuclear projects.

One of the reasons that Canada is a competitive Tier 1 nuclear nation is because we have a long history of safely executing nuclear projects and managing nuclear assets, all under the governance of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). For approximately 70 years the Canadian nuclear industry has developed and refined its expertise as a Tier One nuclear country, and this includes its world class nuclear regulatory regime, evidenced through our strong track record of safely operating nuclear facilities or performing nuclear work in Canada.

This body of work includes the very successful Darlington refurbishment project, where OPG and its team of leading Canadian suppliers have been performing the \$12B life extension of the Darlington NGS on time and on budget. This will enable Darlington to safely produce clean, reliable electricity for another 30 years, under an extended operating license.

It is through this major life extension work that OPG has again proven itself as a world-class nuclear operator and utility. The rigor and discipline that is applied to its projects and operations have led to not just its strong standing as an operator but also the strong social license that exists for nuclear energy in Ontario. Together, our industry has demonstrated that Ontarians can have clean, reliable baseload

energy at affordable prices – publicly available information from the Federal Government clearly shows that Ontarians pay less for electricity than the provinces that still rely more heavily on fossil fuels. In fact, one of the reasons for the steady rise in public acceptance of nuclear energy in Canada, shown in a 2023 Ipsos Poll, is because of the very strong performance of our nuclear operators such as OPG.

This is not just my opinion or that of other Canadians too. OPG, like other leading global utilities, works with its peers through the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) to perform reviews and assessments of nuclear facilities. OPG's Darlington facility has maintained a level 1 ranking – their highest – through recent years. So it is clear that OPG itself has demonstrated that it has strong operational focus and the ability to manage complex nuclear projects on time and on budget. What about its presence in the community?

The Darlington facility has been safely producing clean, reliable electricity for more than 30 years now. During that time, the communities of Oshawa and Clarington have grown around the site, benefiting from the great jobs it provides and its strong commitment to being a good neighbor. I have attended many of the community events hosted by OPG as well as other community events in Durham region or local municipalities and I regularly see OPG as a key participant – either in support of a community cause or in their own public engagement. I'm sure that the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities is also providing its support to the license renewal application – OPG has earned the support of its community.

In 2022, OPG officially expanded the role of the Darlington facility to also include the production of medical isotopes – starting with Molybdenum 99, then Yttrium

90 and now Cobalt 60 too. These isotopes are critical in the medical industry for diagnosing or treating various cancers and is another reason for why Canada has such a strong global standing in the nuclear industry. Personally, I don't think we talk enough about the benefits of producing these medical isotopes from our CANDU reactors – especially with a fourth isotope, Lutetium-177, being planned for future harvesting at Darlington. These isotopes don't just save lives but also add to the already staggering value of the Canadian nuclear industry. Know that this ability to efficiently harvest medical isotopes while producing electricity is unique to the CANDU nuclear industry.

And Darlington is at the heart of our CANDU nuclear industry, anchoring over 250 companies and 89,000 jobs across Canada that contribute to this \$22B per year industry. The Canadian nuclear supply chain includes many companies that are also involved in the medical isotope industry, representing about 10% of the 89,000 jobs that I already referenced.

All of these benefits, the medical isotopes, the high paying jobs, the strong community anchor and the safe, clean reliable electricity are because of OPG and the Darlington Nuclear Generating facility. OPG is a world class operator and nuclear utility, and is supported by a robust Tier 1 supply chain. Canada and our nuclear industry enjoy a strong standing on the global stage, with about \$1B in exports each year derived from our supply chain.

Now, the time has come for the CNSC to consider OPG's request for this to continue, through the renewal of the power reactor operating license. Consider what I have just presented – the history of safe operations, the world class ranking

as a nuclear operator, the commitment to community, the value of medical isotopes and the overall economic benefits to local communities and all across Canada.

Now is the time for us to ensure all of these benefits are available for Canadians for the next 30 years as well, and OCNI strongly encourages the CNSC to renew OPG's power reactor operating license for 30 years.