

Thunder Bay Generating Station

Neighbours Newsletter

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

TBGS
UPDATE

BIOMASS
MILESTONE

ONTARIO'S
POWER
COMPANY

ZEROQUEST®
SAFETY
AWARD

NATIONAL
ABORIGINAL
CAREER FAIR

CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
TOURS TBGS

EQUIPMENT FOR
CONFEDERATION
COLLEGE

EMPLOYEES
DIG DEEP FOR
CHARITY

ANNUAL
CLEAN UP
EVENT

INTERNATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY
YEAR

Thunder Bay Generating Station Update



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Ontario Power Generation (OPG) will phase out coal-fuelled electricity by the end of 2014. Already we have seen a change in the role of OPG's coal-fuelled operations, including our Northwest Thermal stations in Thunder Bay and Atikokan. Province-wide, OPG's five Thermal stations generated 9.5 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity in 2009, compared to 23.2 billion kWh in 2008. OPG's coal-fuelled stations no longer produce electricity all of the time, but rather serve the valuable role of quick-response back-up to ensure that power is there to meet peaks in demand during low water years that reduce hydroelectric generation, and when wind, solar and other forms of renewable-powered energy are not available. In the future, coal units converted to biomass and/or natural gas could provide this flexibility, along with climate change benefits.

OPG is studying options to convert or "repower" Thunder Bay Generating Station (TBGS) to cleaner fuel. While biomass has been tested at TBGS, conversion to natural gas is being assessed as a cost-effective option. Concept work is being done for both biomass and natural gas options for TBGS.

Repowering OPG's Northwest Thermal generating stations in Thunder Bay and Atikokan from coal to biomass and/or natural gas makes sense because it makes use of existing generating stations owned by the people of Ontario. Before we can proceed, we have to get fuel and plant modifications at a reasonable cost and negotiate a power purchase agreement with the Ontario Power Authority. We also have to prove to our Board of Directors, the Ontario Power Authority and the provincial government that we have a solid business case that makes good sense for northwestern Ontario.

While decisions have yet to be made on the future of TBGS generating units, we will be sure to keep the community informed as information becomes available. In the meantime, we thank the community, its leaders and stakeholders for their support of the plant and its staff.

I welcome any questions or concerns you may have regarding our operations.

Ontario's Power Company

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proud to be Ontario's electricity generation company. Owned by the people of Ontario, we operate a diverse fleet of hydro, nuclear and thermal generating facilities with a strong record of safety, reliability and flexibility. These vital public assets are the backbone of the electricity system. OPG's generation contributes to the well-being of many communities and regional economies and enables wind and other forms of generation. We contribute to the electricity needs of the people of Ontario and in doing so, help advance the province's broader economic objectives. Our success is based on performance excellence in all areas of our operations, prudent financial management, maximizing the value of our diverse assets, expanding our supply of clean and low emission electricity generation and community commitment.



ISO 14001 Certification -Thunder Bay GS
Environmental Management System CERT-0024628

ZeroQuest® Platinum Safety Award for OPG



(L -R) Chris Fralick TBGS Production Manager; Brett Rushton, Mechanical Technician and Power Workers Union representative; Murray Crane, Manager, Fuel Ash and Site Services and Society of Energy Professionals representative; Frank Chiarotto, Senior Vice President-Thermal; and Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal.

OPG is the first employer in Ontario to be awarded the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association's ZeroQuest® Platinum Safety Award. The ZeroQuest® program recognizes excellence in safety performance, safety systems and safety culture. The Platinum level is reached after five years of Gold Award level performance. Our progress through the ZeroQuest® program is a good example of the safety partnership between OPG and its unions. "This award is testimony to OPG's leadership in promoting safety in the workplace and sharing our best practices throughout the industry. I applaud our employees for their dedication to workplace safety. Winning this award is not an end point for OPG. Zero injuries is our final destination," said Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal.

National Aboriginal Career Fair



Over 400 students and exhibitors from throughout northwestern Ontario recently attended "Blueprint for the Future", a national career fair designed to attract First Nation, Métis and Inuit high school students to the wide array of potential careers available in all employment sectors. Sponsored annually by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF), the event was held this year in Thunder Bay and provided an opportunity to reach out to Aboriginal youth. Ontario Power Generation was on hand to share information about educational and skill requirements for the production of electricity.

Ontario Power Generation representatives, Tim Borg, Mechanical Maintainer, TBGS and Nancy Veal, Station Human Resources Manager, Northwest Thermal, participated in the event.

New Chamber of Commerce President tours Thunder Bay Generating Station (TBGS)

With the electricity portfolio high on the agenda of businesses and communities in Ontario, Harold Wilson, the new President of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, was eager to hear about OPG's program examining biomass and natural gas repowering options as we move toward coal phase-out at the end of 2014. Following a meeting with Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, and Jane Todd, Program Manager, both of OPG Northwest Thermal, Mr. Wilson toured the station under the expert guidance of Brett Rushton, Mechanical Technician, TBGS.



New Technical Equipment for Northwestern Ontario's Confederation College

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) was recognized by the Confederation College Foundation for its contribution to the TnT (Trades and Technology) Campaign. OPG's support enabled the college to acquire a Mobile Level Control Trainer for the School of Engineering Technology and Trades. The unit simulates real-life equipment installations in an industrial site. Its portability is extremely important to the college's ability to provide trades training throughout northwestern Ontario. As an engineering, technology and trades-based company, OPG considers this support to be a natural fit and is pleased to be able to help the college students in their quest for higher learning.



(L - R) Ontario Power Generation representatives, Mike Martelli, Manager, Northwest Plant Group and Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal join Confederation College representatives, Brian Campbell, Executive Director, Government Relations, and School of Engineering Technology and Trades representatives John Kantola, Associate Dean and Joe Vieira, Dean.

Employees Dig Deep for Charity

At Thunder Bay Generating Station (TBGS), Albert Kondakow's soup kitchens are always a big hit. TBGS employees held one in support of OPG's corporate charity campaign to help the people in Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake. "We congratulate and appreciate our employees for their compassion, dedication and efforts to help people in need," said Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal.

TBGS's Gary Shchepanik, Mechanical Technician and PWU Chief Steward and Joe Rigato, Electrical and Control Technician, made their donation while Albert Kondakow, Mechanical Technician, served up one of his secret recipes.



Annual Clean Up Event



Ontario Power Generation's Thunder Bay Generating Station's (TBGS) civic minded employees spent their lunch time cleaning up litter along the roadways that lead to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's Mission Marsh and to TBGS. They were participating in the City of Thunder Bay's annual community-wide Clean Up event that is delivered by EcoSuperior.

(L -R) Darcy Dumoulin and Travis Hodgson, TBGS Equipment Operators; Cynthia Domjancic, Site Controller; Michelle Miller, Occupational Health Nurse; Jane Todd, Program Manager, Northwest Thermal and Wes McFarlane, TBGS Equipment Operator.

OPG Celebrates the International Year of Biodiversity



Tom Mitchell, President and Chief Executive Officer, OPG, Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, OPG Northwest Thermal and Bill Bartley, Chair, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) near a new sign that identifies the Mission Island Marsh and surrounding area. OPG's Thunder Bay GS is located adjacent to this rare, provincially significant wetland, which is administered by the LRCA.

Since 2000, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and its conservation partners and site communities have planted close to four million trees and shrubs on more than 1,850 hectares of land. It is one of the largest biodiversity efforts in Ontario, protecting existing habitats and providing new habitats for wildlife, while sequestering carbon dioxide and helping mitigate global warming.

As part of this year's biodiversity initiatives, and in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, OPG donated more trees to the City of Thunder Bay's Tree Stewardship program.

Thunder Bay Generating Station (TBGS) maintains ISO 14001 environmental certification, and is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). WHC certification recognizes excellence in environmental stewardship including a comprehensive wildlife management program for the property and a demonstrated long-term commitment to wildlife enhancement efforts.

OPG's biodiversity initiatives are designed to RETAIN what is significant, RESTORE habitats that have been degraded, REPLACE habitats that have been lost, and RECOVER species at risk. The program is part of OPG's biodiversity policy which has been in place since the inception of the company.



White-tailed Deer at TBGS



Fawn on naturalized TBGS ashpile



Common Merganser and brood at TBGS



At an Arbor Day event held in Thunder Bay's Current River Park, Jane Todd, Program Manager, OPG Northwest Thermal, City Councillor Andrew Foulds and helpers Nathan and Liam Mancuso placed mulch around the freshly planted trees.

Neighbours Newsletter

Thunder Bay GS Neighbours is published for the community by Ontario Power Generation's Thunder Bay Generating Station.

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