

May 8, 2014

NUCLEAR EXERCISE AT DARLINGTON IN LATE MAY

Clarington - As required by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Ontario's emergency response plans will be strengthened when the provincial, federal, municipal governments and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) work together during *Exercise Unified Response*, a mock emergency drill taking place May 26-28. Exercise Unified Response will test emergency response plans and demonstrate how agencies and government work together to protect Ontarians.

The exercise will simulate an incident at the Darlington Nuclear Generation Station in The Regional Municipality of Durham and will involve more than 50 agencies. The Province, through the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) is responsible for the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan. The OFMEM, working with provincial ministries is responsible for ensuring public safety, including informing the public and coordinating response efforts, such as evacuations outside the generating station.

The Regional Municipality of Durham and its municipalities are mandated by legislation to have emergency plans in place to respond to radiological incidents. They are responsible for alerting the public, conducting evacuations, housing evacuees and coordinating with, and receiving support from, the Province.

The Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan (FNEP) is developed and maintained by Health Canada in partnership with other departments. The plan assigns specific roles and responsibilities to federal agencies and departments who support the response to a nuclear emergency and is harmonized with provincial planning. The country's nuclear industry regulator, the CNSC, also plays a key oversight role in emergency preparedness and response.

In the unlikely event of an emergency at the Pickering or Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations, OPG is responsible for controlling the incident, managing onsite response efforts and ensuring that radiation releases are minimized. OPG is also responsible for the safety of its employees.

The exercise scenario calls for both on-the-ground activities and oversight from various operations centres in Durham Region, Toronto and Ottawa.

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