

Notes for Remarks

Tom Mitchell

**President and CEO
Ontario Power Generation**

To the Lake Huron Learning Collaborative

**March 11, 2010
Kincardine, Ontario**

Subject to change upon delivery

Tom Mitchell
Chairman and CEO
Ontario Power Generation
Lake Huron Learning Collaborative
March 11, 2010
Kincardine, Ontario

NOTES FOR REMARKS

I'm delighted to be here today to announce an important investment by OPG in Kincardine. OPG and the people of Kincardine have been partners for nearly 40 years. OPG has worked closely with Kincardine's leaders and residents on numerous occasions, and we will continue to do so for many years to come.

Our presence in – and commitment to -- this community is well established.

Our predecessor, Ontario Hydro, built the massive Bruce nuclear complex, which OPG owns and leases to our industry colleagues at Bruce Power.

Our Western Waste Management Facility for storing low and intermediate nuclear waste – as well as used nuclear fuel from Bruce Power – has been operating safely and responsibly since 1974. It employs about 165 people – many of whom live here and are active members of the community.

Our Corporate Citizenship Program has helped support more than 600 local not-for-profit initiatives, including student awards, over the years – initiatives that contribute directly to the quality of life of this region.

In addition, we have many community initiatives being undertaken through our proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for the long term storage of low and intermediate nuclear waste. The DGR's technical process is now being managed on OPG's behalf by the federal Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), and these initiatives complement and enlarge our legacy of community commitment.

I'm proud of the strong relationship OPG has with the people of Kincardine, Bruce County and increasingly with Huron County. It's a relationship based on trust, mutual respect, a productive past and the promise of an equally productive and positive future.

Today, I'm here to solidify that promise with the announcement that OPG is investing \$500,000 over a four year period to help this community provide post-secondary capacity and education opportunities for its residents. The money will be used by the Lake Huron Learning Collaborative to help create a Learning Centre in Kincardine. The Centre will be capable of delivering college and university level courses as well as skills training to young people and adults in the community. OPG would like to capture many of those students – especially those in math and science – and contribute to the culture of education in this region.

I'm personally excited by this initiative. The idea of a Learning Centre is the brain-child of people right here in Huron and Bruce counties. Their goal is visionary -- to lay the foundation for what could be the nucleus for the future development of a higher education infrastructure serving the Kincardine/Bruce/Huron County region. For many in this community, this is an idea whose time has come. OPG is proud to have the opportunity to help start the process. When I was in school, they taught me that mighty oaks can grow from small acorns. I am more than hopeful that an impressive outcome will emerge from this beginning.

Our decision to invest in this Learning Centre is one more way we have of demonstrating our commitment to this community. It's a clear statement that says: "we're here to stay in Kincardine – for the long term."

This investment is also important in others ways – because it says something about our approach to nuclear waste management.

Our approach is strategic and geared to every stage of the life-cycle of our nuclear plants.

To elaborate on that observation...OPG has been safely and successfully managing nuclear waste for nearly 40 years. As experienced operators of nuclear plants, we know that as Ontario's reactors age some will require refurbishment and all will eventually have to be decommissioned. We have been developing and fine-tuning plans for decades that will deal with this fact. This includes supporting important infrastructure components – including education initiatives like this one. The Learning Centre has the potential to help support our waste management efforts.

In addition, the Community Hosting Agreement which OPG signed with Kincardine in 2004 contains a provision that we work together to create a Centre of Energy Excellence. The Learning Centre can be an important step toward this goal as well.

I would like to tell you something more about our approach to nuclear waste management.

OPG is responsible to the people of Ontario for the cradle-to-grave management of its nuclear plants. This includes waste, decommissioning and site remediation.

Not only do we have well developed plans in place to deal with nuclear waste. We also have firm principles that we rigorously follow in all our waste management activities.

First and foremost is safety. In addition to our Kincardine facilities, OPG has major nuclear waste management operations at our Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations east of Toronto. In all our years of operating nuclear plants and managing nuclear waste ... no member of the public has ever been harmed as a result of a radiation emission from a nuclear power plant or waste storage facility. That's a strong safety record. We're proud of it. We're committed to upholding it.

The other point I want to make about safety is that unlike other industrial waste by-products, used nuclear fuel is controllable. At OPG, we control every gram of used nuclear fuel that we have ever produced. We know where it is. We know how much of it there is. And we know exactly what it's doing all the time -- because we monitor it constantly. Few industries can exercise this level of control over their waste. You can't do it with CO2...or smog...or some pollutants. But we can with nuclear waste, and that is a significant safety factor.

Second only to safety, is our commitment to being accountable. When it comes to the management of nuclear waste, the nuclear industry and OPG is one of the most strictly regulated in Canada. Our facilities and transportation programs are licenced and monitored by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – the country's nuclear regulator. We also must comply with conditions, directives and regulations issued by:

- Natural Resources Canada,
- Transport Canada,
- the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency,
- the Provincial Ministry of the Environment and
- the International Atomic Energy Agency.

We are also accountable to ourselves. We conduct regular inspections and audits of our operations to ensure compliance with accepted safety and operational practices. In addition, we have an emergency response plan for our transportation operations that is audited internally, as well as by Transport Canada.

Our approach to nuclear waste management is also guided by a deep sense of responsibility to future generations. We don't want to burden those who come after us. To help ensure this never happens, the Government of Ontario has provided an effective funding framework in the form of the Ontario Nuclear Funds Agreement. Under the Agreement, OPG contributes every year to two segregated funds. These funds are designed to deal with the costs of managing our nuclear waste and the decommissioning of our nuclear plants. Their current value exceeds \$10 billion. Few industries or companies make this kind of financial commitment to the control of their waste. We do.

OPG is also fortunate that at the federal level an effective process is being developed for the long-term storage of used nuclear fuel. This is the Adaptive Phased Management process, developed in consultation with communities across Canada by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization – of which OPG is an active member.

With both these important pieces in place, our job at OPG will be to successfully execute all aspects of the nuclear waste management process we're responsible for – including decommissioning and site remediation.

We will do this by engaging in open and transparent consultation with our host communities every step of the way. This is the final principle that guides OPG in its approach to nuclear waste. We are committed to involving communities directly in the decision making process for managing nuclear waste. This is your community. You will be at the table. Your voice will be heard. I promise you that. We have taken this open and consultative approach in the past – with the DGR, for example. And we will continue to take this approach going forward.

As our investment in this Learning Centre demonstrates, OPG is committed to the communities that host our facilities.

Our management of nuclear waste has a history of safe, accountable and responsible operation.

In partnership with you, we intend to uphold that tradition – not just for the next few years or even decades. But for as long as it takes to fulfill our responsibility as a trusted nuclear operator.

We are your partners. But more importantly, we are your neighbours and friends.

And like good neighbours and friends, we're here for the long haul.

Thank you.