

February 16, 2010

**Continued Operations at Pickering Nuclear**

OPG is planning for continued operation of the Pickering Nuclear station for about the next decade with a further investment into the station of \$300 million.

The decision to continue operation at Pickering Nuclear is supported by the positive Environmental Assessment undertaken at Pickering B in the past three years. The EA concluded continued operation was not likely to cause any adverse affects taking into account identified mitigation. The decision is also supported by the Integrated Safety Review conclusions, which demonstrated the station has a high compliance with modern safety codes and standards. Further, the station's continued robust condition provides a business and safety case. In 2009, Pickering B operated with about an 84 per cent capability factor. That year two units operated at more than 90 per cent capability. A third reactor, Unit 6, was identified as the best performing reactor in Canada (Q3, 2008-Q2, 2009) by the CANDU Owner's Group, prior to entering a planned maintenance outage this past fall.

The \$300 million investment over the next decade is part of the continued operation plan. The investment will be used to perform pressure tube inspections, boiler inspections, water lancing, feeder work, research and development, as well as equipment upgrades and repairs. OPG will also continue to fully staff the units, improve backlogs, and install modifications to meet regulatory requirements and internationally benchmarked operating standards throughout the life of the station. The goal is to have the units in even better condition at the end of this period than they are now.

Continued operation of Pickering Nuclear, including the four 'Pickering B' units and the two 'Pickering A' units, during the Darlington Refurbishment period will assist in ensuring the base load electricity needs of Ontarians are met. The decision to continue operation at Pickering while refurbishing Darlington reflects the complex nature of refurbishment projects and the need to focus resources on the larger and newer units at Darlington.

The long window of continued operation will allow succession planning for nuclear employees following the eventual end of operations at Pickering. A refurbished Darlington station and potential new nuclear units at the Darlington site will require workers with nuclear skill sets similar to today's Pickering Nuclear employees.

Pickering Nuclear has had a long history of supplying power to Ontario. It also has a strong record of conventional and radiological safety.

The Pickering A and B stations combined have produced more than 680 terawatt hours in their lifetime. That is enough energy to power the entire province for more than four years.

In 2009, the Pickering B station produced a record amount of energy (about 15 terawatt hours) at a cost to consumers of 4.8 cents per kilowatt hour. This compares very well with many other sources of electricity. The station is valuable today and can be a key contributor to the Ontario electricity supply for the next decade or more.

For More Information, Contact:

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