

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

ABITIBI CANYON STATION BACK IN SERVICE AFTER MAINTENANCE
Tail race project completed ahead of time and under budget.

Timmins -- Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Abitibi Canyon Generating Station is back in service after the successful completion of a construction outage. The project was safely, ahead of schedule and under budget.

"The entire project is an example of the project management skills used by OPG," said Peter Murray, OPG's Northeast Plant Group Manager. "A good example is the fact station staff used this outage to perform maintenance work inside the plant, which avoided a second outage at a later date."

The project, which required more than 80 workers, rehabilitated what's known as the "tailrace", which is the concrete structure that channels the water after it has passed through the turbines. Work started August 1, 2010 and finished in early September.

During construction two coffer dams were built downstream to allow for a dry work site. This was the first time the tailrace had been exposed since the plant was built in 1933. During the outage workers rehabilitated the concrete walls, piers and deck beams.

Murray noted that a key part of the project was minimizing impacts on local fish populations. Members of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation were involved in recovering and relocating fish that may have been affected by the work.

Abitibi Canyon GS is located on the Abitibi River about 70 km north of Smooth Rock Falls. It has been producing clean, reliable electricity for more than 75 years and its five generators produce 350 MW of electricity, which at maximum output would power as many as 350,000 homes.

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