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Four OPG coal-fired generating units removed from service *Lambton 1 and 2 and Nanticoke 3 and 4 will be placed in safe shut down*

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has taken four southern Ontario coal-fired electricity generators permanently off-line as scheduled.

Units 1 and 2 at Lambton Generating Station (GS) and Units 3 and 4 at Nanticoke Generating Station (GS) will be placed in a safe, permanent, shutdown state. The shutdown of the generators was initially announced in September 2009.

“I want to thank the people at Lambton and Nanticoke who have operated and maintained these units over the years. They have done a great service to Ontario. To those who are leaving OPG or moving to other stations, we wish them well,” said OPG President and CEO Tom Mitchell.

Mitchell added that the early closure of these units will save ratepayers \$200 million over the next four years as OPG moves to a cleaner energy mix and reduces its carbon footprint. The company is also investing in clean hydro generation, planning for nuclear refurbishment and new nuclear.

“We’re making good progress on the conversion of our Atikokan plant to biomass. We are also assessing the potential for converting some of our other remaining coal units to cleaner fuels as we believe making use of these valuable public assets is a cost effective option to complement the province’s growing solar and wind generation,” he said.

Brought into service in the late 1960s and early 1970s respectively the four closed units were capable of producing about 2,000 megawatts of electricity. Electricity production from Ontario’s coal-fired generators has declined rapidly as new generating sources like natural gas and renewables have come on-line. In 2009, almost 90 per cent of OPG’s generation came from carbon-free nuclear and hydro sources. Ontario will phase out the use of coal by the end of 2014.

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