

February 20, 2009

LAC SEUL GENERATING STATION DECLARED IN SERVICE
New facility will provide clean, renewable energy

Toronto – Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN) announced today that the 12.5 MW Lac Seul/ Obishikokaang Waasiganikewigamig station located near Ear Falls, Ontario is in commercial operations. The project will operate as a partnership between LSFN and OPG.

“This is a proud day for my people, and myself. The partnership marks the end of an era when our rights and our history were ignored and launches an era where we’re treated as equals,” Chief Clifford Bull said. LSFN purchased a 25 per cent share of the project.

“Ontario has signalled its commitment to green Ontario’s electricity supply and create opportunities for people eager to participate in a green economy,” said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

“The experience behind the Lac Seul Generating Station is analogous to our ambitions of eliminating coal and developing future partnerships between First Nations and energy generators that are good for local communities, the province, and the earth,” he added.

John Murphy, OPG’s Executive Vice-President Hydroelectric noted that, “this project is the result of a lot of hard work by many people, both within OPG and our contractors. It also starts a new era where these types of projects and their proceeds are built with the interests of all parties in mind.”

Murphy also thanked the community for their support, noting “Ear Falls Council and the community made an exceptional contribution in preliminary discussions with the Lac Seul First Nation, and this continued during the construction phase of the project.”

The new station, adjacent to the Ear Falls Generating Station, has dual names, one Ojibway, the other English. The Ojibway name is Obishikokaang Waasiganikewigamig. The first part means White Pine Narrows - the original Ojibway name of the area - and the second part means electricity generating building. The English name is Lac Seul Generating Station.

Construction on the project began in January 2006. The plant is built adjacent to Ear Falls Generating Station, an existing OPG facility. This new plant will use water that has historically been spilled past the existing station. This water will now be used to generate, clean, renewable energy. The station will generate enough electricity to meet the annual needs of 5,000 homes. All future profits and risks will be shared by OPG and the First Nation.

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