

## **Environmental Assessment for Possible Pickering B Refurbishment**

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has taken the initial steps for a federal Environmental Assessment (EA) on the possible refurbishment of the Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station.

### **The EA Process**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is done to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects before they occur, and to incorporate environmental factors into decision-making.

OPG has submitted a letter of intent and project description to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The CNSC will determine the need for an EA as part of the licensing process for life extension. An EA for Pickering B would help identify any potentially significant effects and mitigation measures that could be required for plant refurbishment and continued operations. In addition, it would provide a formal mechanism for public consultation on the potential environmental effects and any proposed mitigation activities.

Once a determination of need for an EA is made, EA Guidelines would establish what is to be studied. It is expected that the EA for Pickering B likely would consider a broad range of activities including the direct effects of the project activities on the environment up to 2060. The EA likely also would consider the cumulative effects of refurbishment and continued operations, and other projects in the area.

The results of the EA would be documented in an Environmental Assessment Study Report, prepared by technical specialists and made available to the public. A final EA Study Report could be ready in 2007.

### **Public Consultation**

Consultation with the public and local stakeholders is an essential part of any EA process and the preparation of an EA Study Report. Extensive opportunities for public and stakeholder input would be provided. These include a variety of proposed activities such as an internet website, open houses, workshops and written communications. An 'issues management' program also would help ensure that community and stakeholder concerns around potential environmental effects are incorporated into the EA study.

Pickering B consists of 4 – 516 MW reactors, in the City of Pickering.

For more information please visit the OPG web site ([www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com))