

August 4, 2006

Ms. Michelle Swenarchuk
Executive Director
Canadian Environmental Law Association
130 Spadina Avenue, Ste. 301
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 2L4

Dear Ms. Michelle Swenarchuk:

**RE: Commencement of a Federal Environmental Assessment
for the Refurbishment and Continued Operation of
Pickering Nuclear Generating Station B**

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has begun an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, on the possible refurbishment of the Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station. The Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station is comprised of four - 516 MW CANDU reactor units (net electrical). The station is located in the City of Pickering, in the Regional Municipality of Durham. It has been operating safely since it came into service in 1983 and will continue to produce electricity safely for at least another decade before requiring refurbishment. A map of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station site is attached.

The EA is being prepared as part of the business plan to determine the feasibility of life extension for Pickering B. The EA will help identify any potentially significant environmental effects and mitigation measures that would be required for plant refurbishment and continued operations. The EA will examine the effects of the proposed project on all aspects of the natural and social environment, including cumulative effects, effects of possible accidents and malfunctions and effects of the environment on the project.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is the authority responsible for the EA and will release draft guidelines that outline what is to be considered and included in the EA shortly. The results of the EA will be documented in an EA Study Report, prepared by technical specialists, submitted to the CNSC and made available to the public. The CNSC will issue a draft Screening Report for public review in mid 2007 followed by a hearing. It is anticipated that the CNSC will make a decision on the EA in late 2007/early 2008.

This project would involve refurbishing a number of major components in each of the Pickering B units during planned outages in order to extend the life of the units. For EA planning purposes, refurbishment of the first unit is assumed to begin as early as 2012



and would continue over approximately the following eight to 10 years. Operation of all four refurbished reactors is anticipated to continue to the new end of service life of the reactors estimated to be until about 2060.

Consultation with public stakeholders is an essential part of any EA process and the preparation of an EA Study Report. Extensive opportunities for public and stakeholder input will be provided. These include a variety of activities such as a project Web site, open houses, and workshops. Key stakeholder interviews will also be conducted as an early step to obtain initial advice and guidance on the EA.

As the EA studies proceed, we will contact you routinely and keep you informed through regular updates at key points in the study process. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact myself, or Donna Pawlowski, Manager of Strategic Planning & External Relations (905.839.6746. ext. 5389).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Swami', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms. Laurie Swami, Director of Licensing
Nuclear Plant Life Extension Projects
Ontario Power Generation
889 Brock Road, 2nd Floor
Pickering, ON
L1W 3J2

905.839.6746 ext. 5388

Attachments (1)

LOCATION OF PICKERING GENERATING STATION B ON THE PICKERING NUCLEAR SITE



