



SUBMISSION TO THE
CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION

In the matter of

**ONTARIO POWER GENERATION'S APPLICATION FOR
THE RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSE FOR
THE
PICKERING A NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION**

Submitted by the
CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS COUNCIL

April 21, 2010

Members of the Commission:

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC) was founded in 1993 as an umbrella organization of workers who are represented by unions in various sectors of the Canadian nuclear industry. The purpose, objectives, and a list of the member Unions of the council is attached as Appendix A

The Canadian Nuclear Workers Council supports the relicensing of the Pickering A Nuclear Generating Station. One of our major members, the Power Workers Union (PWU), represents operations and maintenance staff at the generating station, and this submission is made with their agreement and support.

As we have stated in previous submissions to the Commission, the CNWC holds health and safety of workers to be paramount. We believe that a safe work environment which results in a very good safety culture creates a workplace that is operated in a very safe manner. As you will be made aware the on site Unions are involved with the employer, OPG, with many health and safety programs at the site. This cooperative effort ensures that worker safety is a major priority and a good safety culture will exist.

It was pointed out that a CNSC Safety Culture audit in 2009 found that some workers were reluctant to report safety concerns to their supervisors. The CNWC supports outside audits as they provide an unfamiliar set of eyes and the results are a good check on the system. We will not comment further as the on site Union (PWU) will address the concerns in this regard in their submission.

The presence of the on-site CNSC staff that continually reviews and monitors the safety of this facility also helps to ensure the safe operation of the Generating Station and should also provide the public with a good level of comfort that the site is operated in a very safe manner.

Many of the station staff live nearby with their families, this demonstrates their confidence in the safety of the facility.

The CNWC has coordinated several tours of the Pickering Station for Union leader groups in the past few years. Some of these people had some skepticism about the facility prior to their visit but left with a sense of satisfaction that the plant was very clean and safety was a high priority.

The recent announcement that the site will be shut down beginning in 2020 has caused some anxiety with the workers as well as with the public. It is very important that a high level of transparency and good communications be maintained to alleviate any of these concerns.

The CNWC suggest that the above evidence of the high priority given to safety should help ensure the public that the Pickering A Generating Station is a safe facility and does not pose a safety threat to the community.

If there were any health and safety matter of potential threat to workers and or the community that was not being addressed expeditiously, please be assured that it would be brought quickly to your attention by CNWC, the on-site unions, or both.

Our members recognize that the continued safe operation of the Pickering A Generating Station is imperative for the health of the Ontario economy and the safety of its residents.

The Station produces clean environmentally friendly power to the Ontario Electricity Grid.

The CNWC Executive members from the Pickering Site are involved with local organizations in the vicinity of the Pickering Plants. During our oral presentation at the upcoming public hearing in this regard they will provide the Commission with a brief presentation on their views from the perspective of their community involvement as well as their views as a young workers and female workers at the site.

Conclusion

There are therefore a number of very strong health, social, and economic reasons for the Pickering A relicensing. If there was any unresolved health or safety operational related matter of concern to our members which would preclude relicensing it would be imperative that we bring it to your attention. We are not aware of any such concern.

OPG has maintained and safely operated the Station during the current license period. The plant has been operated safely for nearly 40 years.

We therefore fully support the relicensing of the Pickering A Nuclear Generating Station.

David Shier - President – CNWC

Attachments:

APPENDIX A

Purpose of the CNWC

1. To ensure that the views, concerns and interests of nuclear industry workers represented by unions or worker associations are brought to the attention of governments, regulatory authorities, nuclear energy related inquiries, the media, and members of the public.
2. To promote, through dissemination of factual information based on the experience and knowledge of our workers, a better understanding of the social, industrial, and economic benefits of nuclear energy, in particular:
 - i) its safety, environmental soundness, and economic viability;
 - ii) its role as a creator of high quality jobs;
 - iii) its importance to Canada's industrial competitiveness and exports;
 - iv) its major contribution towards enhancing Canada's expertise in science, engineering, technology, and skilled trades.
3. To communicate with and inform Canadian workers in other sectors of the Canadian economy of these benefits of nuclear energy.

Objectives of the CNWC

To carry out its purpose the objectives of Council are to:

- i) maintain and enhance a data base to provide more factual and authoritative information on nuclear issues;
- ii) facilitate a better informed public by providing information on nuclear issues; provide a focus to ensure that the interests and perspective of nuclear workers are heard by decision makers;
- iii) strengthen the role of nuclear workers as a partner in their industry;
- iv) gain support for the nuclear industry and its future potential.



MEMBER UNIONS

The Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council is an organization of unions that represent workers in various areas of the Canadian nuclear industry, including electric utilities, uranium mining & processing, radioisotope production and nuclear research. The member unions are:

**Canadian Union of Public Employees
Canadian Auto Workers Union
Chalk River Technicians and Technologists Union
Communication, Energy & Paper Workers Union
International Association of Firefighters
International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Power Workers Union
Professional Institute of the Public Service
Professional Engineers Union (AECL)
Quebec Hydro Engineers Union
Public Service Alliance of Canada
United Steelworkers**