

Message from the President

Meeting Nuclear Energy Fear Mongering With the Facts

The unprecedented earthquake and tsunami caused event at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant in Japan has anti-nuclear activists out in full force calling for the closure of nuclear power plants across the world. Weeks of 24/7 news coverage provided a bonanza of opportunities to present images of doom and disaster, characterize all nuclear reactor technologies as being the same and suggest that the threat of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan was universal.



An April 5th, 2011 article in The Guardian by George Monibot, a former member of the anti-nuclear movement, exemplifies how the anti-nuclear movement is misleading the world about the impacts of radiation on human health. In the article he cites a recent debate with Dr. Helen Caldicott, one of the world's foremost anti-nuclear campaigners. Monibot notes that she has received 21 honorary degrees and scores of awards and was nominated for the Nobel peace prize.

During the debate, she "made some striking statements about the dangers of radiation" so Monibot asked for the sources. Dr. Caldicott sent nine documents: newspaper articles, press releases and an advertisement. Monibot notes that none were scientific publications nor did they contain sources for the claims made. One press release did refer to a report by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. After reading the 423-page report, Monibot states that it did not support any of the claims made by Dr. Caldicott and in fact strongly contradicts her claims about the health effects of radiation.

Monibot concludes "we have a duty to base our judgments on the best available information and ensure the issues are represented fairly and not squander our lives on fairytales". In effect, Monibot is restating a key principle in the code of ethics that all journalists are supposed to follow.

There has been a universal commitment by the nuclear industry to learn from this unmatched nature-caused disaster. This should come as no surprise given our industry's dedication to protecting public health and safety and the environment. Our challenge now is to ensure that the public knows the facts. It's the only way to secure continuing support for nuclear energy.

Fact based information about Canada's nuclear regulatory framework, the design differences between CANDU reactors and those at the Fukushima plant, geological conditions in Canada, emergency preparedness are available from: the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; Bruce Power; Ontario Power Generation; NB Power; Hydro Quebec; the Canadian Nuclear Association and the Canadian Nuclear Society to name a few.

In the wake of the Fukushima event, the Canadian nuclear industry has been working hard to ensure the Canadian public and decision makers have the right information to make sound judgments. This is critical to the future of Canada's world-class nuclear industry given the continuing uncertainty around the restructuring of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Its also critical for a province like Ontario, which has few energy options going forward; New Brunswick which is now considering becoming dependent on carbon emitting natural gas generation; and Alberta and Saskatchewan that could decrease their dependency on fossil fuels.

CANDU reactors have been safely and reliably providing greenhouse gas emission free electricity to Canadians for more than 47 years. Worldwide our "safety-in-depth" reactor design has resulted in an impressive safety record spanning over 1000 reactor years. We have a strong regulator, a robust multi billion-dollar industry and a dedicated workforce. Monibot is on the mark when he says, "we must put it right."



HQ To Undertake Cost-Benefit Analysis of Gentilly Nuclear Power Plant

The Fukushima incident in Japan, the nuclear plant renewal challenges in New Brunswick and South Korea, and the uncertainty concerning the future of AECL, have environmental groups calling for the abandonment of the Gentilly-2 refurbishment project. The Parti Québécois has been calling for the closure of the station. On March 24th, 2011, Hydro Québec announced it would be providing the Quebec government with a cost-benefit analysis of the closing of the Gentilly-2 nuclear power plant.

Hydro Québec's net profit decreased by more than 12 percent or \$356 million in 2010, due to reduced power output and electricity exports caused by low water levels at its hydroelectric plants. Refurbishing Gentilly-2 was estimated to cost about \$2 billion in August 2008. This estimate did not include the cost of decommissioning the plant which is expected to cost about \$1.8 billion.

In October 2010 the CNSC announced new dates for the public hearing to review Hydro Québec's application for the renewal and combining of its operating licences for Gentilly-2 and its radioactive waste facility until December 10, 2010 and April 13 and 14th, 2011. In late December 2010, the CNSC extended the licences for both facility

The CNSC heard more than 80 submissions at the recent April two day hearing in Bécancour, Quebec. Submissions critical of the refurbishment project were provided by Greenpeace Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility and the Parti Québécois. On the first day of the hearing, a total of eight people were arrested, six at Hydro Québec's Montreal Headquarters and two at the CNSC's hearing in Bécancour.

The Commission also considered presentations by the Canadian Nuclear Association, the Québec chapter of the Canadian Nuclear Society, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local sections 957, 1500, 2000 and 4250 of the Gentilly-2 Nuclear Generating Station and the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council.

Heavy Water Flows in Bruce Power's Unit 2

Bruce Power has been an active player providing information to the public on the events in Japan following the massive earthquake and tsunami. Bruce Power's CEO, Duncan Hawthorne, has been busy discussing events in Japan on CBC, CTV and TVO and at conferences. As well, Bruce Power has set up a section on its website to ensure its employees and the public are apprised of evolving developments at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The web page also lists national and international links for additional information.

Bruce Power and its employees also raised more than \$80,000 during a two-hour campaign on March 22nd to assist the workers of the Fukushima power plant. A site-wide gate collection collected about \$41,000.00 which Bruce Power matched dollar for dollar.

On March 28th, Bruce Power announced that it would be delaying the shipment of 16 steam generators to Sweden for recycling. This will allow more time for consultations with First Nations, Métis and others. The CNSC issued a transport

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licence to Bruce Power on February 4th, 2011 following the consideration of information from 77 interveners during a public hearing last September. The CNSC's decision indicated that the risk to the health and safety of the public and the environment is negligible.

On April 21, 2011 following almost two months of tests and adjustments, Bruce Power operators refilled the Unit 2 moderator system with heavy water. The installation of new feeder tube segments in Unit 2 is now past the halfway mark and commissioning of the new steam generators is expected to be underway in July. This should enable the heat transport system to be ready for heavy water coolant by September.

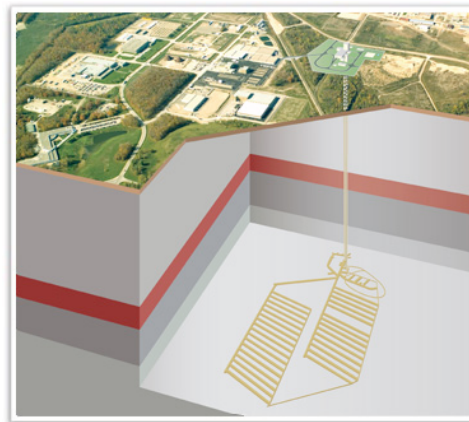
Deep Geological Repository Project Moving Ahead

On April 14th, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) submitted over ten thousand pages of information in support of its License application for a Deep Geologic Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Waste (DGR). The materials included the Preliminary Safety Report, supporting documents and a confidential document dealing with security. The fourteen documents included an Environmental Impact Statement, provided in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

OPG's proposed facility will be located at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station near Kincardine. It will hold waste currently stored on the Bruce Nuclear site in the interim Western Waste Management Facility as well as waste produced from the continued operations of the Bruce, Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission acknowledged receipt of the material for the DGR project on the 19th of April. OPG's documents will be posted on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) website. When the Joint Review Panel members have been appointed and participant funding awarded, the Panel will have a period of up to 14 days to announce the commencement of the public review and comment period. Some U.S. municipal bodies have already adopted resolutions against building nuclear repositories in the Great Lakes Basin, although the DGR does not require U.S. approval.

Previously on March 18th, 2011, the CEAA announced the availability of \$175,000.00 in participant funding. The funding is intended to assist groups and individuals to participate in the environmental assessment of OPG's DGR project. Funding applications are to be received by the CEAA no later than April 22, 2011.



Artist's Rendition of Deep Geologic Repository, Courtesy of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Darlington New Build Joint Review Panel Hearings

On April 14th, 2011, almost three weeks of Joint Review Panel public hearings wrapped up for the Darlington New Build Project. The Panel heard 111 oral presentations from March 21st to April 8th, 2011, including one from the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council. OPG posted a summary of each day of the hearings on its Darlington New Build web page. The hearings mark the final public phase in the environmental assessment process. The Panel does allow a 20-day time period for final written submissions from all interveners and a 25-day period for OPG.

In a closing statement to the Panel, Albert Sweetman, OPG's EVP Nuclear New Build, stressed that OPG's environmental impact statement considered all possible environmental effects and ways to reduce any impacts. Barclay Howden, from the CNSC, stated that the Fukushima situation in Japan had not changed the regulator's opinion of the suitability of the Darlington site. Mr. Howden also indicated that the lessons learned from Japan would be incorporated into subsequent CNSC decisions related to the project. On March 30th, the CNSC announced its intentions to establish an operational task force to evaluate the operational, technical and regulatory implications of the March 11th nuclear event in Japan in relation to Canadian nuclear power plants. Details of this task force were subsequently announced on April 20th by the CNSC. "It will determine priorities for the implementation of corrective actions based on the lessons learned and the need, if any, for further examination."

With the receipt of these written submissions, the Panel will declare the record closed and prepare their written report within 90 days, including a recommendation to accept or reject OPG's findings. The Panel will then submit their report to the Federal Cabinet who will make the final decision on the recommendation.

On April 19th, Greenpeace protestors occupied the office of Ontario's Minister of Energy Brad Duguid, calling for a halt to the project. During a press interview, the Minister noted that Ontario has no intention of deviating from its plans to receive about half of its electricity from nuclear power.

Cameco Contributes \$1M for Relief Efforts in Japan

Cameco's February 2011 "Community Forum" newsletter to Port Hope residents included new economic impact data. A study done by Harry Kitchen, a professor of Economics at

Trent University, shows that the financial and economic impact of Cameco's Port Hope and Northumberland County have grown considerably since 2005. Cameco Fuel Manufacturing is now the largest private employer in Port Hope.

Kitchen reported that Cameco creates 616 direct jobs and another 288 indirect jobs in Port Hope. Including Cameco's operations in all of Northumberland raises the number to 1,456 direct and indirect jobs. The total economic impact is estimated at \$96 million in Port Hope and \$155 million when all of Northumberland County is included. Cameco's operations also represent 46 percent of Port Hope's industrial tax assessment. Additionally, in 2009 Cameco donated \$600,000 to youth, education and literacy, health and wellness and community development related projects. On April 8th, Cameco announced that it would be contributing a million dollars to the relief efforts in Japan.

Worth Repeating....

In an interview with the French wire service AFP, International Energy Agency Chief Economist Fatih Birol, said a global slowdown in the growth of nuclear power in reaction to the Japan crisis will seriously hamper the fight against climate change. He added that governments must study the implications carefully before making any decision to retire nuclear power plants earlier than expected or shelve plans for new facilities.

"Nuclear is a very crucial part of the global energy mix," Birol said. "A lower nuclear capacity growth in the future may have a substantial effect on the global energy mix, energy prices and climate change."

Good News for Point Lepreau Refurbishment

On March 30th, 2011, NB Power announced the achievement of a significant Point Lepreau Refurbishment Project milestone. The calandria tube sheet bore polishing activities, including polishing, inspection, cleaning and measurement, had been completed. Since then about twenty calandria tubes have been installed. On April 7th, the CNSC announced that the Power Reactor Operating Licence for the station had been renewed until June 30th, 2012.

On April 14th, the members of the New Brunswick legislature voted unanimously to press the federal government to pay for the cost overruns associated with the refurbishment project. The province is currently in negotiations with the federal government seeking full compensation.

The federal party leaders campaigning in New Brunswick provided different responses to how their respective

government's would address the issue. At an April 20th press conference in St. John, Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, indicated his support for providing some compensation. Jack Layton, leader to the NDP, indicated he would investigate the issue, while Stephen Harper, Conservative leader, stressed that AECL would honour its contractual arrangements but no additional costs would be covered.

On April 22nd, the New Brunswick Energy Commission announced that it was seeking feedback on the province's most recent vision for a stable energy future. The process had started in October 2010 to seek public input on the province's energy future. One of the fifty recommendations calls for natural gas to be the key source of energy until the province can tap into renewable sources. Public comments on the vision are due by May 6th, 2011.

In short...

Politics and Nuclear Energy in Germany

In 2010, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel's government passed a law extending the life of the country's nuclear plants beyond 2020. This was intended to secure an affordable electricity supply while Germany transitioned to renewable energy sources. A previous German government had decided that all nuclear power plants would be phased out by 2020.

On March 14th, 2011, just a few days following the Fukushima incident in Japan and prior to two key regional elections on March 28th, Chancellor Merkel placed a three-month moratorium on the life extensions of the country's seventeen nuclear reactors. Following the loss of both elections, on April 4th Merkel established a Commission comprised of representatives from politics, science and religion to review the future of nuclear energy in Germany. The Commission headed up by a former environment minister is expected to issue a final report in May. This will include the results of extensive public consultations and a safety review of Germany's nuclear reactors.

Areva To Help With Fukushima Clean Up

Following a late visit to Japan by CEO Anne Lauvergeon, Areva announced on April 19th that the company would be providing clean up equipment. The decontamination plant that Areva will build uses a "co-precipitation" process to isolate and remove radioactive elements from contaminated water.

Plans call for the unit to begin operating before the end of May. TEPCO, the

owner of the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant has already begun the process of removing highly contaminated water from one of the reactors and is a key step towards repairing the cooling system.

Two Positive Decisions From The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

On April 19th, 2011 the NRC and U.S. Corps of Engineers announced that they had completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Combined Licenses for the proposed Summer Units 2 and 3 reactors. The NRC concludes that there are no environmental impacts that would prevent issuing the licenses.

The applicants, South Carolina Electric and Gas and Santee Cooper are applying to build and operate two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors adjacent to the existing Summer Nuclear Power Plant near Columbia, South Carolina.

On the 21st of April the NRC announced the renewal of the operating license for Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station's Units 1, 2 and 3 for an additional 20 years. The NRC decision followed consideration of safety and environmental reviews submitted in December 2008 by the plant's operator, Arizona Public Service Company, public meetings held in 2009 and 2010, and NRC inspections of the plant. The NRC staff concluded there were no environmental impacts that would prevent license renewal.

ICEM Conducts Second Uranium Training Programme in Namibia

A three-day workshop in basic safety radiation training for workers employed around uranium and uranium mining was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from March

24th to the 26th. The first International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers Union (ICEM) sponsored workshop was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in June of 2009.

Twenty-two people attended the training session including 15 African mine union leaders and seven trainers. The International Labour Organization and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES) of Germany provided funding. Resources were also provided by the ICEM, the Power Workers' Union (PWU) of Canada, the United Steelworkers (USW), and the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council. Cameco and Ontario Power Generation also provided additional support.

The workshop addressed radiation sources, protection, detection measurements, as well as radioactive gases in underground, open cast, and milling workplaces. ILO Conventions 176 and 183 and national legislative and regulatory frameworks were also reviewed and discussed.

Instructors included Dave Shier and Bob Walkers of the PWU; Nancy Hutchison of the USW; Michael Schultheiss of FES Namibia; Marko Baran of Cameco; and Brian Kohler of ICEM. Fabian Nkomo, ICEM's Sub-Saharan African Regional Officer, was also a facilitator and selected the 15 African trade unionists for the workshop.



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The member groups are:

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