ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

700 University Avenue Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X6

News
from Ontario Power Generation

Tel: 416-592-4008 or 1-877-592-4008 Fax: 416-592-2178
www.opg.com

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OPG Submits Preliminary Lessons From Japanese Earthquake
Robust design of nuclear plants would withstand emergencies

TORONTO – In a preliminary report on lessons learned from the event at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has determined that its nuclear facilities are safe, robustly designed and will withstand emergencies.

"We live in a very stable area both seismically and in terms of severe weather. So our location and the design of our reactors mean we can't experience what occurred in Japan. But that doesn't allow us to be complacent. We're in the midst of conducting a thorough review of the lessons we're learning from Japan and how we might apply that to our own operations and emergency planning," said Wayne Robbins, OPG Chief Nuclear Officer. "We will continue to review our operations as we learn more."

OPG's preliminary report to the CNSC shows that the risk related to OPG station operations remains very low. The Pickering and Darlington designs consider a wide array of accident and event scenarios and incorporate a number of emergency response capabilities and safety features, including backup systems and equipment to maintain power supply to the plants in the event of a blackout.

Robbins noted that earlier this week tornadoes damaged the transmission lines connected to the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in the United States and that all safety and backup systems performed as designed.

"This is typical of the scenarios we might expect and our safety systems and backup generators would react the same way to protect the public and environment. "

While the report finds OPG's operations meet a very robust safety standard, OPG is taking some additional actions based on review of the Japan event. OPG has accelerated installation of passive hydrogen recombiners, which would neutralise any hydrogen gas that might result following an extremely improbable severe accident. These augment existing hydrogen removal systems. The review also identified areas for further examination. This includes study into the impact of event sequences beyond what had been previously imagined, such as a major earthquake leading to a significant fire or flooding and the impact of larger than forecast earthquakes on used fuel storage bays.

OPG will provide further progress updates to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission by May 28, 2011 and by July 28, 2011.

For a full copy of the report, go to www.opg.com

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OPG Media Relations
1-877-592-4008 or 416-592-4008

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