

**Questions and Answers for Public Participants in the Federal Review of Ontario Power Generation's
Proposed Deep Geological Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Wastes**

Q. What is the project?

A. Ontario Power Generation is proposing to create caverns deep below the surface of the Bruce nuclear generating station for the permanent placement of low and intermediate level nuclear wastes that are created through the operation of nuclear power plants at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations.

Q. What are “low and intermediate level” nuclear wastes?

A. These are all of the radioactive wastes that are created by operating nuclear generating stations, with the exception of the used nuclear fuel bundles, which are classified as “high level” waste. Low and intermediate level wastes include everything from discarded mops and dust clothes to resin and filters that are highly radioactive, despite being classified as “intermediate”. Ontario Power Generation operates an incinerator on site, which creates a hazardous ash which will also be placed in the underground repository.

Q. How is the project being reviewed?

A. The federal government has appointed a “Joint Review Panel”, under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The Review includes a number of stages, including a six month period to review the project proposal (submitted as an “Environmental Impact Statement” and supporting documents in April 2011) followed by a public hearing, which will probably be in Kincardine or Port Elgin, both near the proposed project site, and is expected to last 2-3 weeks.

Q. What is the Joint Review Panel?

A. Appointed by the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (two members) and the federal Minister of the Environment (one member) the Joint Review Panel members are made temporary members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. They will conduct the review, hold the hearing, and make a final report as advice to the federal government on whether the environmental assessment should be approved. They will also decide on whether the licenses to prepare the site and construct the proposed repository should be issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Q. What are the main steps in the review process?

A. The review process began in 2008 with draft terms of reference and draft environmental impact statement guidelines being released for public comment. These were both finalized in 2009 by the federal government. The next step was the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and supporting documents by Ontario Power Generation. This was completed and the EIS was released in April 2011. The current stage is a public review of the Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate whether it conforms with the EIS guidelines. After the public review is completed and the Joint Review Panel is satisfied that they have enough information about the project to evaluate it, there will be a public hearing. The Panel announced on June 18th, 2013 that the hearing would begin on September 16th. All those who wish to participate in the hearing are required to register / request to participate no later than July 5th, 2013. The final steps in the review process are the issuing of the Joint Review Panel's report on the environmental assessment and the federal government responding to that report, and the Joint Review Panel's decisions about the licenses being released.

Q. What are the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines?

A. The EIS guidelines provide direction to the proponent on what information must be provided in the EIS and supporting documents. After the EIS is released it is reviewed to determine if it has met all the directions provided in the EIS guidelines. This is sometimes described as a “conformity review”, because the EIS is being evaluated to determine if it conforms with the EIS guidelines requirements.

Q. What happens during the “public review” of the Environmental Impact Statement?

A. As part of reviewing the environmental impact statement and supporting documents to determine if the information required by the EIS guidelines has been provided, hearing participants may submit “Information Requests” to the Joint

Review Panel suggesting additional information Ontario Power Generation should be required to provide, or answers they should be required to ask. The Joint Review Panel then considers if they think this information or response would be helpful, and if they do, they forward the Information Request to Ontario Power Generation and Ontario Power Generation must reply. The Joint Review Panel may also hold “technical sessions” during which Ontario Power Generation and possibly others may make presentations and the Panel may ask questions, plus the Joint Review Panel will most likely visit the proposed location of the project. In addition, the hearing secretariat, which is made up of staff from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will hold a small number of open houses in the project area, and will maintain an on-line registry of all the information that is being generated or exchanged as part of the review process.

Q. Who can submit Information Requests?

A. Any participant in the review process – including any member of the public – can submit an Information Request in writing to the Joint Review Panel. It should be forwarded to one of the Panel Co-managers. The Panel Co-managers contact information is: Debra Myles, c/o Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Tel. 1-866-582-1884, Email: DGR.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca, or Kelly McGee, c/o Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Tel.: 613-947-3710, Email: OPG-DGR@cnsccsn.gc.ca. The Panel is no longer accepting Information Requests.

Q. How should I write an Information Request?

A. An Information Request should include the number or the Section in the EIS Guidelines that the information request relates to, a clearly stated request for information or a question, and a short explanation of why the information being requested is relevant and necessary to the review. Consider following as closely as possible the format used in the first Information Request that has been filed for this review, which was from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and was posted on the public registry at <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/54169/54169E.pdf>. The Panel is no longer accepting Information Requests.

Q. When and how will I receive a response from my Information Request?

A. Information Requests were reviewed by the Joint Review Panel, and if they agreed that the information will be helpful in the review, they will forward the requests to Ontario Power Generation. OPG then acknowledged the information request, and then provided a response or partial, in most cases within a few weeks. All of these will be posted on the public registry. CEAR # 1163 is a consolidated set of Information Request responses provided by Ontario Power Generation and is posted on the registry at <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p17520/89872E.pdf>

Q. When will the hearing begin and how can I participate?

A. On June 18th 2013 the Joint Panel Review announced that the public hearing would begin on September 16th, 2013. Anyone who wishes to participate in the hearing by either providing a written submission to the Panel or speaking at the hearing must register and request to participate by July 5th, 2013 – just 17 days after the hearing notice was issued! To register on-line go to www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/intervention/eng. You can also email OPG-DGR@cnsccsn.gc.ca or telephone Marie-Claude Valade, 613-947-8597 to register, but you must provide the information identified in the online registration form, which includes name and contact information, nature or your interest or expertise, how you wish to participate (written submission, 30 minute oral intervention or 10 minute oral statement) and what issue or topic you wish to address.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) operates a public registry about the review at <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=17520> and will answer questions by email or over the phone. Information from hearing participants is available at www.bruce-nuclear-waste-burial.ca and through organizations linked from that site. You can also email Northwatch@northwatch.org.