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Pickering Nuclear: Safe and secure

COG president speaks on OPG Pickering Nuclear's contribution to nuclear safety at CNSC hearing

CANDU Owners Group (COG) President and CEO Fred Dermarkar spoke in support of the 10-year licence renewal for Ontario Power Generation's Pickering Nuclear plant in Pickering, ON., June 27.

In his remarks to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Dermarkar referenced OPG's high safety standards, initiatives, their leadership role in COG's R&D projects and OPEX (operating experience) sharing, industrywide.

"OPG is a leader in continuous improvement, innovation through R&D, and nuclear safety and emergency preparedness," Dermarkar said. "These efforts have a direct correlation on OPG's ability to safely and predictably manage the Pickering station until end of operation. The quality of the work and the resulting performance is transparent and measurable."

Dermarkar outlined several COG programs in which OPG and the other COG members collaborate to continuously innovate the CANDU industry. Through COG, CANDU operators invest about \$60 million annually in R&D and joint projects toward continuous performance improvement.

Dermarkar said one area of research, the COG fuel channel program, with associated joint projects, represents "the most significant evolution of CANDU technology in the past 30, or more, years." He added, "This investment and the resulting research has a direct impact on the safe, predictable operation of the Pickering station."

The June 25-29 renewal hearing included more than 150 submissions. It was webcast live and is available for 90 days on the CNSC website at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

[Click here to read Fred Dermarkar's full remarks](#)