COVID-19 RESPONSE

CANDU Owners Group works to help members and participants exchange information to strengthen their response to COVID-19

For the nuclear industry, Job 1 during COVID-19 is maintaining a safe, reliable electricity source to ensure hospitals, emergency services and the day-to-day necessities of life remain unaffected. This job isn’t just important, it is essential.

At the same time, the industry has contributed in many other ways through development of nuclear medical diagnostics, contributing expertise to solve immediate COVID-19 supply challenges, and through corporate citizenship to positively affect the lives of millions of people.

COG members operate the nuclear plants. Its participants contribute significantly to these efforts. In our role as an organization that drives collaboration to achieve excellence in performance, COG is also working to strengthen our member and participants’ COVID-19 response efforts.

Connecting operators for real-time fleet support

Through COG, the Canadian and international community of member operators are connected into a fleet-wide COVID-19 response capability to strengthen and share their own expertise, resources, supply chain and solutions to common challenges, as they arise.

A peer team of operations and maintenance utility pandemic planners from station leadership in Canada and internationally are assisting each other with critical response to emergent technical needs. The collaboration includes development of protocols and workforce management, as well as ensuring critical programs and supply chain are maintained. Immediate operating experience is shared twice weekly via teleconference and through a team site on the secure COGonline platform. The group is connected into the World Association of Nuclear Operators Atlanta Centre (WANO-AC).

Additionally, nuclear communicators from 10 organizations — including operators and several other industry organizations — are sharing best practices and examples of communications they have developed for their respective employees, communities and the public about health, safety and operational status. This facilitates industry-wide information flow and provides a communicator resource library during this time of intensive operational communication need.

COG is also linked into an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) initiative to share experience amongst operators across all technologies, worldwide. This initiative is particularly focused on helping countries with smaller nuclear programs to benefit from knowledge that exists across the broader international community.

In many cases, peer teams, workshops and other activities continue through our COG teleconference and video systems.

We are committed to providing service and value to our members and the industry during this period and as we look to the future.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to look for opportunities where COG can provide valuable services and provide further opportunities to help our members as they respond to the needs of people they serve.