The premiers of New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta show the signed their respective copies of the signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the provinces to collaborate on SMR development, from the virtual ceremony held, April 14. Image: Government of Ontario

Canadian provinces partner on SMRs, release joint study

Ontario, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on SMR development and release a joint study on SMR feasibility

APRIL 14, 2021 — The premiers of New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta participated in a virtual signing ceremony and have agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaborate on small modular reactor (SMR) development.

The ceremony marked the release of a joint study by members of the CANDU Owners Group (COG), including Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bruce Power, New Brunswick Power (NB Power), as well as, SaskPower, which finds the development of SMRs would support domestic energy needs, curb greenhouse gas emissions and position Canada as a global leader in clean energy technology.

"It is important that our provinces take these next steps together to continue leading the development of cutting-edge small modular reactors for the benefit of future generations," said Ontario Premier Doug Ford.

The SMR Feasibility Study was one of the deliverables identified in the provincial MOU originally signed by Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. The ceremony formally welcomed Alberta as a signatory to the SMR MOU previously signed by the other three provinces in December 2019. The Feasibility Study identifies three streams of SMR project proposals for consideration by the governments of Ontario, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. The three streams of projects would aim to be ready by the late 2020s and into the early 2030s.

OPG, along with Bruce Power, NB Power and SaskPower, are utilities involved in the COG SMR program, which supports a harmonized approach to SMR development in Canada. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, also a COG member, participates in COG's SMR program, as well. Additionally, 10 SMR technology development companies participate in COG's SMR vendor participant program.

In collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Association, COG is part of the Canadian Nuclear Industry SMR Secretariat to track progress against the Government of Canada’s SMR Action Plan, released last December. Since release of the Action Plan, several COG members and participants have been involved with SMR-related announcements and milestones.

Click here to read today’s full SMR MOU announcement.
Click here to download the Feasibility of SMR Development and Deployment in Canada study.
Click here to read more about Canada’s SMR Action Plan and find links to COG and member chapters.
Click here to visit the COG’s SMR Program page.

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