A COG technical committee visited New Brunswick Power in June to share technical knowledge and at the same time, gained a better understanding of the province’s nuclear future.

Members of the CANDU Owners Group (COG) R&D Chemistry, Materials and Components (CM&C) Technical Committee (TC) got to see New Brunswick’s research cluster plans unfolding first-hand when its members met earlier this summer in New Brunswick.

The team shared OPEX, research updates and discussed work designed to support and enhance the safe, reliable and economical operation of nuclear plant equipment. In addition, the meeting, hosted by New Brunswick Power (NB Power), included a day touring the Point Lepreau Generating Station, and the University of New Brunswick’s (UNB) Centre for Nuclear Engineering and Research (CNER). The university is a UNENE (University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering) partner.

The two-day gathering included representatives from CM&C’s funding partners, NB Power, Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Bruce Power and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). As well, industry supplier Kinectrics, also participated. The first day of the TC meeting focused on sharing knowledge of common issues and interests and featured presentations from NB Power management and engineers. They provided OPEX and updates from their CM&C working groups. The CM&C TC reviewed work from fiscal year 2018-19 and discussed ramping up of approved and proposed projects for the new fiscal.

On the second day of the meeting, the TC toured Point Lepreau and the UNB laboratories, gaining first-hand knowledge of plant operations, safety culture and issues while also learning more about UNB’s nuclear research work, from CNER Director William Cook, including COG supported projects and collaborations with NB Power and other industry partners.

COG R&D’s CM&C program has a strong focus on the major CANDU systems and their auxiliaries, such as the primary heat transport, moderator, steam generators, emergency core cooling and containment. The continued safe operation of CANDU nuclear facilities coupled with reliable and cost effective electricity production are the overarching goals of the CM&C program and TC.

The CM&C program is managed by COG and is jointly funded by OPG, Bruce Power, NB Power, and CNL.