

Nuclear Maintenance Managing for the future



Above: OPG's Chief Nuclear Officer Sean Granville presents at the first of COG's new maintenance managers' workshop series.

A new COG workshop series offers maintenance managers a chance to step back from the day-to-day and prepare for the long game

A lot has happened in the nuclear maintenance field in recent years with artificial intelligence, improved human performance tools and other developments that can take maintenance to a new level of efficiency and add years to the life of the plants.

The challenge is being able to step away from day-to-day urgency to take a strategic approach that will solve today's problem and, as importantly, will help manage for performance excellence tomorrow.

A new CANDU Owners Group (COG) workshop series, "Maintenance Strategic Thinking Workshop," is helping managers get a handle on long-term opportunities and bring them to fruition.

COG kicked off the series with a three-day pilot workshop in early June. Together, COG-member maintenance managers from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, New Brunswick Power and Ontario



Above: Maintenance managers from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, New Brunswick Power and Ontario Power Generation participate in one of the workshop's group discussions.

Power Generation, considered how to seize strategic opportunities and gain "buy in" to execute on them.

"Strategic opportunities present themselves at all levels of a company," says George Williams, the COG project manager who facilitates the session. "Examples may include a new and innovative process, a new tool on the market, or refining the way we already do business to make it better."

The course builds on a number of competencies that support thinking and leading strategically. The workshop moves participants through the motions of identifying potential opportunity, assessing the situation, building a case for the proposal and presenting the case to move it forward.

Participants leave the program with personal action plans on how they will apply the learning on the job. In the June session, the managers were able to build from each other's experiences and gain momentum for their own personal objectives, says Williams.

"When I facilitate workshops like this I am always impressed with the talents and insights of our industry's managers. Those in maintenance really understand the need to have the right tool available for the job at hand. Leadership is no different. This workshop simply provides leaders with more tools for the toolbox."

Given the positive feedback from the pilot, COG has scheduled the next workshop for Sept. 26-28. Senior maintenance managers at each utility nominate participants.

For more information, contact George Williams at George.Williams@CANDU.org.