

**Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission**

**Commission canadienne de  
sûreté nucléaire**

**Public meeting**

**Réunion publique**

**June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Le 25 juin 2018**

**Pickering Recreation Complex  
1867 Valley Farm Road  
Pickering, Ontario**

**Complexe récréatif de Pickering  
1867, rue Valley Farm  
Pickering (Ontario)**

**Commission Members present**

**Commissaires présents**

**Dr. Michael Binder  
Ms Rumina Velshi  
Dr. Sandor Demeter  
Ms Kathy Penney  
Mr. Timothy Berube  
Dr. Marcel Lacroix**

**M. Michael Binder  
M<sup>me</sup> Rumina Velshi  
D<sup>r</sup> Sandor Demeter  
M<sup>me</sup> Kathy Penney  
M. Timothy Berube  
M. Marcel Lacroix**

**Secretary:**

**Secrétaire:**

**Mr. Marc Leblanc**

**M. Marc Leblanc**

**General Counsel:**

**Avocate générale :**

**Ms Lisa Thiele**

**M<sup>e</sup> Lisa Thiele**

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Pickering, Ontario / Pickering (Ontario)

--- Upon commencing the public meeting on Monday,  
June 25, 2018, at 1:01 p.m. / La réunion publique  
début le lundi 25 juin 2018 à 13 h 01

### **Opening Remarks**

**MR. LEBLANC:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Bonjour à tous. Welcome to the public meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

We have simultaneous interpretation. Please keep the pace of your speech relatively slow so that the interpreters have a chance to keep up.

Des appareils pour l'interprétation sont disponibles à la réception. La version française est au poste 2, and the English version is on channel 1.

We would ask that you please identify yourself before speaking so that the transcripts are as complete and clear as possible.

The transcript will be available on the Commission website in about two weeks.

I would also like to note that this proceeding is being video webcast live and that archives of these proceedings will be available on our website for a three-month period after the closure of the proceedings.

As a courtesy to others in the room, please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.

I would also like to note for emergency purposes that there are some exits at the back of the room. In terms of bathrooms, there is a set of bathrooms in this room somewhere in the back, just there, and outside near the reception area.

Monsieur Binder, président et premier dirigeant de la CCSN, va présider la réunion publique d'aujourd'hui.

President Binder...?

**LE PRÉSIDENT** : Merci, Marc.

Good afternoon and welcome to the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Welcome also to all of you who are joining us via webcast and teleconference.

My name is Michael Binder, I am the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

I would like to begin by recognizing that we are holding this Commission Meeting in indigenous traditional territory.

I would like to start by introducing Members of the Commission who are with us here today.

To my right are Dr. Sandor Demeter and

Ms Kathy Penney; to my left are Mr. Timothy Berube and our President-in-waiting, Rumina Velshi -- nobody gets it, a little bit of humour -- and Monsieur Marcel Lacroix.

You already heard from our Commission Secretary Marc Leblanc. We also have with us Ms Lisa Thiele, Senior General Counsel to the Commission. And that's it.

**MR. LEBLANC:** Thank you, Mr. President.

The *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* authorizes the Commission to hold meetings for the conduct of its business.

The meeting agenda was published on June 13th, 2018.

This will be a short meeting, with one item on the agenda to provide to the Members an update on the status of the power reactors in Canada. This update is provided at every Commission proceeding.

Mr. President...?

**CMD 18-M29**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**THE PRESIDENT:** So with this information, I would now like to call for the adoption of the agenda by the Commission Members, as outlined in CMD 18-M29.

Do we have concurrence?

So for the record, the agenda is adopted.

**CMD 18-M29**

**Approval of the Minutes of Commission Meeting  
held on May 28, 2018**

**THE PRESIDENT:** I would like now to call for the approval of the Minutes of the Commission meeting held on May 28, 2018.

Any comments, additions?

Okay. Therefore, for the record, the minutes are approved.

So let's now proceed with the Status Report on Power Reactors, which is under Commission Member Document CMD 18-M33.

I note that we have representatives here from the nuclear power plants. We have somebody online from OPG.

Ms Herrera, can you hear us? Are you here?

**MS HERRERA:** Paulina Herrera is present in the room.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Okay. Better.

**MR. LEBLANC:** I have Ms Smith.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Anybody else online that should be now acknowledged?

**MS SMITH:** For the record, it's Stephanie Smith, Director of Ops and Maintenance for Pickering Nuclear, on the line.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you.

**MR. VULANOVIC:** For the record, it's Boris Vulcanovic, Director of Operations and Maintenance for Darlington Refurbishment, online.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Okay, great. Thank you.

I understand, Mr. Frappier, you will make the presentation. Over to you.

**CMD 18-M33**

**Status Report on Power Reactors**

**Submission from CNSC Staff**

**MR. FRAPPIER:** Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. President and Members of the Commission.

For the record, my name is Gerry Frappier, I am the Director General of the Directorate of Power Reactor Regulations.

With me today via teleconferencing are our Power Reactor Regulatory Program Division Directors that are back in Ottawa, plus technical staff who are available

to respond to questions on the Status Report on Power Reactors as presented in CMD 18-M33.

As you will note, this document was finalized on June 20th of 2018 and so I have the following verbal updates.

First, at Bruce, Bruce Unit 4 has returned to full power following the planned maintenance outage that it was in.

Darlington Unit 3 has returned to full power following its planned maintenance outage. Darlington Unit 4 was shut down on June 22 for planned inspection work on the primary heat transport system.

On June 22nd CNSC was informed by Ontario Power Generation, in accordance with its licence, that at Pickering an issue with the digital control computer resulted in the reactor Unit 4 being safely shut down. This shutdown occurred while it was returning to power following a maintenance outage. The unit is in a safe and stable state and there is no impact on workers or the public or the environment. CNSC inspectors are onsite and monitoring and Pickering Unit 4 is now at 1.3 percent full power and returning to full power following this outage's progression.

Also at Pickering, Unit 8 is now at 59.9 percent full power -- is what I have here -- following the

outage and it is progressing back to full power.

This concludes our status report for power reactors. We are available for any questions.

I would also like to point out that at this time last year we also talked a bit about the fires in Saskatchewan, which have returned again. So if people are interested, Mr. Jammal can give us an update on the status there with respect to the uranium mines.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Okay. Let's start with the NPP status report. Ms Penney, question? Dr. Demeter...?

**MEMBER DEMETER:** Thank you. I'm going to pull this over here a bit. There we go. Thank you. I just had one quick question on Pickering Unit 8. It was an unplanned outage on June 7th to repair fuelling machine equipment. I gather from the update you gave me that that must be fixed if they are back up to full power, but is this piece of equipment dedicated to this unit, is it shared between units? Is there any implication when this goes down, broader than the unit for which it went down?

**MS HERRERA:** Paulina Herrera, Manager of Pickering Regulatory Affairs, for the record. Stephanie Smith, the Director of Operations and Maintenance, is joining us via teleconference and I will ask her to provide a response to your question.

**MS SMITH:** For the record, it's Stephanie Smith, Director of Ops and Maintenance, Pickering Nuclear.

So yes, on Unit number 8 we did have to take a forced outage. The equipment issue that we had was a flow blockage. This equipment is specific to Unit 8 only, it's part of our fuel handling system. We did resolve the issue, it was a flow blockage, and the unit has subsequently returned to power.

**MEMBER DEMETER:** Thank you very much.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you. Ms Velshi...?

**MEMBER VELSHI:** On the Pickering 4 shutdown, is this a recurring event with your digital computer control system? Have you had that before?

**MS SMITH:** For the record, it's Stephanie Smith at Pickering.

So on Unit 4, as part of our startup activities we do normally take a computer out to repair or to update a power supply. So after that was completed, the control room staff are required to restart the computer. During this case the individual involved hit the wrong pushbutton, which caused the second computer to stall. So this was not an equipment issue, this was a pure human performance issue. After the reactor was tripped, as per our procedures, we then progressed to the GSS as dictated. As part of the response to this event, we did restart both

of those computers and have confirmed that they are in operation and operating correctly.

**MEMBER VELSHI:** So that seems a rather fragile barrier, if just punching the wrong button can result in a reactor having to shut down, doesn't it?

**MS SMITH:** Yes. Unfortunately, we have spent some time with our control room staff around expectations for doing this kind of switching in the control room and they were not followed. So we are taking this as a pure human performance and human error.

**MR. FRAPPIER:** Gerry Frappier, for the record. If I could just add a little bit to that.

So yes, it certainly does seem a bit fragile from an operations perspective coming back online, but from a safety perspective there was never any issue. The operators did the right thing, shut the unit back down into guaranteed shutdown state, and so from a regulator's perspective we are interested in it from a human performance perspective, but there wasn't a cause of safety concern.

**MEMBER VELSHI:** Thank you. It is the human performance aspect of it that I was concerned about. So I suspect we will hear more about this once the investigation is done to see if there are any other learnings.

**MR. FRAPPIER:** Gerry Frappier, for the record. That's correct. We will follow this as we understand a little bit more of what exactly occurred.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you.

Dr. Lacroix...?

**MEMBER LACROIX:** Mr. Frappier, you piqued my curiosity concerning the forest fires in Saskatchewan. What are the nuclear safety concerns?

**MR. FRAPPIER:** So, for the record, I would ask Mr. Ramzi Jammal to comment on that.

**MR. JAMMAL:** It's Ramzi Jammal, for the record.

The fire actually started within 2 to 3 kilometres from McArthur Uranium Mine and Processing Facility. This facility is currently is currently in a shutdown state in care and maintenance, it is not producing. At no time was there any safety issues relating to the workers and the environment on the site itself. Even though the fire is close, the Saskatchewan provincial fire crew is onsite and the emergency response team of Cameco is assisting the fire crew. The site itself is designed to withstand natural hazards. Even though they lost power for one day, there were no hiccups at all. So they were able to restart the generators and they have enough fuel for almost two weeks of continuous operation.

So there is no impact. Cameco is briefing their staff on a daily basis and our staff is monitoring the situation and so is the provincial authority.

**MEMBER LACROIX:** Thank you, Mr. Jammal.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Is the fire now under control? Everything is under control?

**MR. JAMMAL:** It's Ramzi Jammal, for the record.

As you know, in a wild fire it's sometimes under control depending on the wind and the variations. If I tell you -- the answer for today is under control. Things can vary quite significantly, but the site itself only has smoke. They use sprinklers to dampen the buildings so they are prepared to respond to the fire if it comes any closer.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Thank you. Mr. Berube...? Anybody else? Any other questions?

Okay. I just have one on the refurbishment, the root cause. I understand that you are now reviewing the root cause and you will report back in August. Is that the plan?

**MR. FRAPPIER:** Gerry Frappier, for the record.

Yes. There has been not quite a root cause analysis, because that is a very specific term and

that is not the process that OPG has gone through, but there is a detailed event report that has been put together that we have reviewed. We are still in discussions with OPG. We have all agreed now on the actual dose calculation as you see in the report, but we will have a more fulsome discussion in August when we have had a chance to have this last little bit of interaction that we are doing with OPG.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Okay. Thank you.

Anything else? All right. Thank you.

So what time is it now? We will restart at 1:30 as planned.

--- Whereupon the meeting concluded at 1:15 p.m. /

La réunion se termine à 13 h 15