

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Friday, September 26, 2003, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

L.J. Keen, Chair

C.R. Barnes

J.A. Dosman

Y.M. Giroux

A. Graham

L. MacLachlan

M.J. McDill

M.A. Leblanc, Secretary

I. V. Gendron, Senior Counsel

S. Gingras, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisers were J. Blyth, C. Maloney, B. Howden and K. Klassen.

Other contributors were:

- Ontario Power Generation Inc.: P. Charlebois, K. Nash and H. Morrison
- New Brunswick Power Corporation: D. Wilson
- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited: J.P. Labrie

#### Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda, CMD 03-M54.A, was adopted as presented.

**DECISION**

#### Chair and Secretary

2. The President took the Chair and the Secretary of the Commission acted as Secretary of the meeting with S. Gingras acting as recording secretary.

#### Constitution

3. With the notice of meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.

4. Since the meeting of the CNSC held July 16, 2003, Commission Member Documents CMD 03-M53 to CMD 03-M59 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

#### Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held July 16, 2003

5. Prior to moving for approval of the minutes, the President asked staff to provide an update requested at the previous meeting on the pitting and damage to the nickel surfaces of the valve seats at Pickering A NGS (reference: paragraph 7 of the draft Minutes of Meeting held on July 16, 2003). Staff replied that nickel plating on the valves was no longer needed since the valve seats have been changed. Nevertheless, the nickel plating continued to be used as a standard practice since no related problems were expected. The problem with the plating was first identified when it was noticed that a valve was moving more slowly than expected. In response, some valves were replaced and others had their nickel coatings removed. All of the valves are now operating properly and no long-term consequences are expected from this incident.
6. The President also noted that the second action item from the minutes of the July 16, 2003 meeting, for which further information was to be provided at the current meeting, was a progress report regarding the MAPLE 1 reactor at Atomic Energy of Canada's Chalk River Laboratories. The President observed that this matter will be addressed as part of the Significant Development Report later in the meeting.
7. In response to a Member's question on when the issue concerning McMaster University (reference: paragraph 5 of the draft minutes of July 16, 2003) will be addressed, staff stated that, while progress has been made, a specific date for resolution of this matter has not been fixed at this time.
8. The Members approved the minutes of the July 16, 2003 Commission meeting (reference CMD 03-M55) without change.

#### **DECISION**

#### Significant Development Report

9. Significant Development Report (SDR) no. 2003-7 (CMD 03-M56 and CMD 03-M56.A) was submitted by staff. Staff reported on the following with reference to the SDR.

### Effect of Power Outage on Power Reactors

10. The Members questioned whether there were any safety concerns during the outage and specifically whether all safety systems responded properly to the challenge of the sudden loss of power from the grid. In response, staff stated that all safety systems responded as expected.
11. The Members questioned why the shift manager at Darlington NGS was not able to carry out the required review in the time before Darlington Units 1 and 2 had to be manually shut down. Staff answered that the Shift Manager was dealing with other more important issues and thus did not have time to do the necessary checks on all units to allow for automated operation. However, staff noted that, while all procedures were properly followed by the Shift Manager in this regard, the performance results warrant further review with the licensee.
12. In response to a question from the Members about lessons learned from the outage, staff stated that, as part of a special Task Force that has been established, staff is working with the utilities and other parties to identify lessons from the blackout.
13. In response to a further question from the Members on the overall safety consequences of the power outage, staff stated that it believes all procedures were properly followed by the licensees, and that there was no significant risk to the health and safety of workers or the public during the event.

### Pickering A Restart

14. CNSC staff reported that, with respect to item 6 of CMD 03-M56, staff has approved the operation of Pickering A Unit 4 at 100% power. At the day of the meeting, the reactor was at 89% power and rising.

### Bruce A Restart

15. With respect to item 7 of CMD 03-M56 (Bruce A restart, unit 4), CNSC staff reported that it recently gave approval for operation of Unit 4 up to 10% of full power.

### Discovery of a Crack in a Point Lepreau Outlet Feeder Pipe

16. In response to a question from the Members on a recently discovered crack in a feeder pipe at Point Lepreau (reference:

CMD 03-M56.A), staff and NB Power indicated that all the first outlet bends of all of the feeder pipes will be inspected and that an extension of the current planned outage is expected as a result.

#### Effect of Power Outage on AECL Chalk River Laboratories

17. In response to a question from the Members about the reported problem that AECL had in activating emergency power during the power outage on August 14, 2003 (reference: item 3 in CMD 03-M56), staff stated that AECL effectively implemented planned backup measures, made the necessary repairs, and took measures to prevent the recurrence of this event.

#### Update on Status of Maple Reactors

18. With respect to item 8 of CMD 03-M56, CNSC staff reported that it met with AECL on September 9, 2003 to discuss progress in resolving issues related to the unanticipated positive power coefficient observed during reactor commissioning tests. AECL reported that they are still working on the verification of the discrepancy between measured and calculated power coefficients.
19. CNSC staff reported that it is still reviewing the documentation submitted by AECL on the verification and confirmation of the power coefficient and the power calibration of the reactor. Concerning AECL's verification of the accuracy of the models of the reactor and of the computer simulations, and also the assessment of the impact of the findings on the safety analysis, staff expects that AECL will be able to submit all of the necessary relevant documentation by the end of October.
20. CNSC staff reported that AECL applied on September 25, 2003 to operate the MAPLE 1 reactor at up to 2 kW.
21. CNSC staff also reported that fuel loading at MAPLE 2 reactor has begun. Staff will be present during the approach to critical work commencing the week of September 29, 2003.

#### Status Report on Power Reactors

22. With reference to CMD 03-M57, staff presented its regular Status Report on Power Reactors.

Staff added the following which occurred since CMD 03-M57 was prepared:

23. Staff reported that Unit 8 of Bruce B is now in a planned outage.
24. Staff reported that Unit 2 of Darlington was manually shutdown because of what appeared as a failed relay associated with shutdown system no. 2.
25. Staff reported that Unit 7 of Pickering B was shut down because of algae problems but is now returned to service.
26. Staff reported that Point Lepreau is now in a maintenance outage.

Status Report on the Regulatory Performance of Used Fuel Dry Storage Operations at Ontario Power Generation, Western Waste Management Facility

27. With reference to CMD 03-M58, staff presented its status report on the regulatory performance of the Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility - a component of the Western Waste Management Facility, located within the Bruce NGS site.
28. In response to a question from the Members about reported delays in transferring fuel waste from Bruce NGS, OPG explained that Bruce Power has had problems with the lifting equipment in the fuel bay and with the device that transfers fuel from trays to modules. OPG stated that Bruce Power is progressing with fixing those issues. With respect to the operational consequences of the delays, OPG stated that the fuel bays at the stations now have an approximate 8-month buffer storage capacity instead of 12 months which is normally maintained.
29. In response to a question from the Members on the reported contamination of some canisters received at the Western Waste Management Facility, OPG stated that it does not believe that the minor contamination on recessed surfaces of containers is a systemic problem. The contamination incidents have been raised with Bruce Power and corrective actions are being taken.
30. In response to a question from the Members on the capacity of the Used Fuel Dry Storage Facility, OPG confirmed that the facility has the capacity to support the operation of eight reactors operating at Bruce NGS. Currently, Bruce Power plans to operate Units 3 to 8 with Units 1 and 2 remaining in a shutdown state.

Amendments to the Point Lepreau Power Reactor Operating Licences and the Point Lepreau Waste Facility Operating Licences Regarding the Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning

31. With reference to CMD 03-M59, staff reported on the amendments that it recently made to the Point Lepreau Power Reactor Operating licence and the Point Lepreau Waste Facility Operating licence regarding the financial guarantees for decommissioning.

32. In response to a question from the Members about a discrepancy in a table in CMD 03-M59, staff stated that it will provide the Members with clarification at the next meeting.

**ACTION**

**Closure of the Public Meeting**

The public meeting closed at 11:58 a.m.

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*Chair*

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*Recording Secretary*

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*Secretary*

## ANNEX A

CMD	DATE	File No
03-M53	2003-08-14	(1-3-1-5)
Notice of Meeting held on Friday, September 26, 2003 in Ottawa		
03-M54	2003-09-09	(1-3-1-5)
Agenda of the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) held in the Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on Friday, September 26, 2003		
03-M54.A	2003-09-18	(1-3-1-5)
Revised Agenda of the meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) held in the Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on Friday, September 26, 2003		
03-M55	2003-09-09	(1-3-1-5)
Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held July 16, 2003		
03-M56	2003-09-04	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2003-7		
03-M56.A	2003-09-17	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2003-7 - Supplementary Information		
03-M57	2003-09-08	(1-3-1-5)
Status Report on Power Reactors units for the period of June 30, 2003 to September 8, 2003		
03-M58	2003-09-09	(37-2-2-6)
Status Report on the regulatory performance of used fuel dry storage operations, a component of the Western Waste Management Facility.		
03-M59	2003-09-09	(26-1-12-1-6, 37-9-1-0)
Amendments to the Point Lepreau Power Reactor Operating Licences and the Point Lepreau Waste Facility Operating Licences regarding the Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning.		