

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Thursday, April 29, 2004 beginning at 11:20 a.m. in the Public Hearing Room, CNSC Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Present:

L.J. Keen, Chair

C.R. Barnes

J. Dosman

A. Graham

M.J. McDill

M.A. Leblanc, Secretary

K. Moore, Senior Counsel

C. Taylor, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisers were: B. Howden, I. Grant, K. Lafrenière, T. Schaubel and P. Webster.

Other contributor is:

- Ontario Power Generation Inc.: T. Mitchell

Adoption of the Agenda

1. The agenda, CMD 04-M18, 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 C. Taylor 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 Commission held March 24, 2004, Commission Member Documents CMD 04-M17 to CMD 04-M22 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held March 24, 2004

5. The Members approved the minutes of the March 24, 2004 Commission meeting (reference CMD 04-M19) without change.

DECISIONSignificant Development Report

6. Significant Development Report (SDR) no. 2004-3 (CMD 04-M20) was submitted by staff.
7. With reference to section 4.1.2 of the SDR, staff added the following information concerning Pickering B NGS – Unit 6 that arose since the SDR was published:
 - Staff reported that, in addition to the generator problems described, it became aware on April 21, 2004 of degradations in the bleed condenser of the heat transport system for Unit 6. Staff noted that Unit 6 will remain shutdown until the cause of the problem is understood and adequate corrective measures are in place.
8. With reference to the reported generator problem at Pickering B – Unit 6, the Members sought additional information on the source and nature of the foreign material that is reported to have caused the damage to the generator stator cooling water box.
9. In response, staff reported that the debris consisted of bristles from a wire brush that was used during earlier modification work on the system. In response to follow-up questions from the Members, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) stated that the cleanliness and inspection requirements for the modification work had not been properly specified and were not in accordance with good practice. OPG added that it has taken actions to ensure the problem does not recur in the future. Staff confirmed its satisfaction with the corrective actions taken by OPG.
10. With respect to the other reactor units where similar modifications had been done, OPG reported that, while it is apparent that foreign material exclusion requirements were not adequately specified at the time the work was carried out, OPG is confident from its extent-of-condition assessment that similar problems do not exist at the other operating units. Staff indicated its concurrence with this conclusion of OPG.

11. With reference to section 4.1.2 of the SDR, staff added the following information concerning the CNSC's Focused Inspection of Pickering NGS B following the loss of the bulk electricity system on August 14, 2003:

- staff reported that OPG has completed its own review of the event and has completed a number of actions to improve plant performance during such events. On April 13 and 26, 2004, OPG also provided written responses to each of the findings in the FIT Report as requested.

Staff recommended that detailed discussion of the contents of the FIT Report with the Members should take place in camera (closed session) due to security concerns.

12. The Members asked staff to elaborate on the findings of the CNSC's FIT Report in the public forum to the extent possible without compromising security. In response, staff noted that, despite the inherently negative tone of this type of inspection report, the station did respond and shutdown safely following the loss of power on August 14, 2003 and, as such, there was no imminent threat to the public at the time. Staff noted that it is currently reviewing the written responses from OPG on the FIT findings.

13. In response to the same request for elaboration on the findings in the FIT report, OPG stated its agreement with CNSC staff's conclusion concerning the safe shutdown of the station following the loss of the bulk electricity system. OPG noted that it undertook immediate actions following the August 14 event. Several substantive corrective actions are continuing and further actions will be required to further bolster the station's defense-in-depth. OPG reported that it conducted several root-cause investigations, and responded to the FIT Report within the required timeframe.

14. In response to follow-up questions from the Members on the adequacy of OPG's responses to the 19 principal findings in the FIT Report, staff stated that, while its review of OPG's responses is not yet complete, staff noted that it has observed the completion of several substantive actions that significantly improve the material condition of the station.

In order to examine the issues in the FIT Report in greater depth without compromising security, the Chair, on the advice of CNSC staff, decided to continue the discussion of this matter in camera (closed session). The Commission therefore moved in camera at 11:45 a.m.

The meeting resumed in public at 2:00 p.m.

15. Upon resuming the meeting in public, the Chair read the following statement from the Commission into the record:

“Following a public discussion of the Significant Development Report on the Focused Inspection Team report on the Pickering B station’s response to the August 14, 2003 loss of bulk electricity system, CNSC staff requested that further discussions be conducted in closed session because of the confidential nature of the information due to security concerns.

One of the Commission’s goals is transparency. However, another goal is safety and security. Striking the balance between these two goals is often difficult.

Further to the in-camera discussion on this matter, the Commission is of the view that this is a serious matter for the Pickering B station under the circumstances which created the August 14th blackout. This matter requires further immediate action by the licensee and by CNSC staff.

The Commission will require a detailed update at its next public meeting scheduled for July 9, 2004 in Ottawa.”

ACTION

Status Report on Power Reactors

16. With reference to the Status Report on Power Reactors (CMD 04-M21), staff provided the following update on the changes in status that occurred since the report was issued:

- Pickering A – Unit 4 - is currently in a planned maintenance outage.
- Bruce B NGS – Unit 6 – on April 20, 2004, the CNSC staff Designated Officer authorized an increase in reactor power from 90% full power to 93% full power. This increase was due to improved operating safety margins that were achieved by reversing the fuelling direction in the unit.

Regulatory Policy P-290 – Managing Radioactive Wastes

17. With reference to CMD 04-M22, staff presented the proposed CNSC Regulatory Policy on *Managing Radioactive Waste* for the approval of the Commission in accordance with the process set out in CMD 03-M10.
18. The Members noted an editorial error in the Policy Statement, section 5.0, paragraph d). The paragraph should read as follows:

“d) The predicted impacts on the health and safety of persons and the environment from the management of radioactive waste are no greater than the impacts that are permissible in Canada at the time of the regulatory decision;”

ACTION

With respect to the statement that appears between paragraphs f) and g) of section 5.0 (which in summary states that the CNSC will consult and cooperate with provincial, national and international agencies in harmonizing regulation, standards and other measures of control), the Members discussed with input from staff whether “industry” should also be identified as a party to be consulted in this context.

Following its deliberations after the close of the public meeting, the Members concluded that the industry is consulted in various ways in the development of regulations and regulatory documents and that, in this specific policy context, a modification of the policy statement is not required.

19. Also, following its deliberations after the close of the public portion of the meeting, the Commission approved CNSC Regulatory Policy P-290 – *Managing Radioactive Wastes* attached to CMD 04-M22, as amended in accordance with paragraph 18 of these meeting minutes.

DECISION

Closure of the Public Meeting

The public meeting closed at 2:12 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Secretary

ANNEX A

CMD	DATE	File No
04-M17	2004-03-26	(1-3-1-5)
Notice of meeting held on Thursday, April 29, 2004 in Ottawa		
04-M18	2004-04-13	(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 Thursday, April 29, 2004		
04-M19	2004-04-13	(1-3-1-5)
Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held April 29, 2004		
04-M20	2004-04-13	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2004-3		
04-M21	2004-04-13	(1-3-1-5)
Status report on power reactors for the period of March 8 to April 13, 2004		
04-M22	2004-04-13	(1-8-8-290)
Regulatory Policy P-290, Managing Radioactive Wastes		