

Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held Wednesday, August 17, 2005 beginning at 2:01 p.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. Taylor

M.A. Leblanc, Secretary

J. Lavoie, General Counsel

S. Gingras, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisers were: I. Grant and T. Schaubel

Other contributors were:

- Ontario Power Generation Inc.: T. Mitchell, M. Williams and S. Woods
- Bruce Power: F. Saunders

#### Adoption of the Agenda

1. The revised agenda, CMD 05-M44, was adopted as presented.

#### Chair and Secretary

2. The President chaired the meeting of the Commission, assisted by M. A. Leblanc, Secretary and S. Gingras, Recording Secretary.

#### Constitution

3. With the notice of meeting having been properly given and a quorum of Commission Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted.
4. Since the meeting of the Commission held June 29, 2005, Commission Member Documents CMD 05-M43 to CMD 05-M49 were distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

Minutes of the CNSC Meeting Held June 29, 2005

5. The Members approved the minutes of the June 29, 2005 Commission meeting (reference CMD 05-M45) without change.
6. Regarding paragraph 8 of those minutes concerning the discovery of a suspicious item at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, the Commission sought information on the status of the related police investigation. CNSC staff responded that the investigation is continuing and that a specific conclusion date has not been set. CNSC staff will update the Commission when more information is available.

**ACTION**Significant Development Report

7. Significant Development Report (SDR) no. 2005-06 (CMD 05-M46) was submitted by staff. The following information was added orally during the meeting.
8. With reference to item 4.1.1 of CMD 05-M46 regarding the unavailability of standby generators for a period of time at the Pickering B Nuclear Generating Station – Units 7 and 8, OPG provided a summary of the recent events and measures that will be taken to prevent reoccurrence.
9. CNSC staff expressed its concurrence with OPG's summary and assessment of the event, and indicated that it was following OPG's progress on the remedial actions and root-cause investigation.
10. In response to a question from the Commission on the frequency of standby generator testing, OPG explained that the generators are normally tested every three weeks. OPG added that, in response to this event, the testing frequency on Standby Generator-3 was been increased to weekly as a precautionary measure.
11. OPG noted that, while the unavailability of the standby generators constituted a significant temporary reduction in its defense-in-depth, other sources of emergency power were available if necessary. In response to a question from the Commission on how long it would take to bring that other emergency power to the aid of an affected unit(s), OPG estimated that it would take approximately twenty to thirty minutes to diagnose the problem and complete the required switching activities.
12. The Commission asked whether the electrical relay problem that caused one of the standby generators to fail could have been caused by improper storage conditions. OPG responded that it has not

- attributed problems with the relays to the storage environment, but rather to manufacturing quality. OPG added that it has changed vendors for this type of equipment to address the quality issues.
13. In response to follow-up questions from the Commission, OPG verified that it has removed all of the potentially faulty relays from the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and that the other stations would be informed of the problem through their shared Operating Experience Program.
  14. The Commission requests OPG and CNSC staff to submit more information on this issue at a future Commission meeting when the root causes of the incident have been determined, including providing details on any necessary remedial actions.
  15. In addition to the items reported in SDR no. 2005-06 (CMD 05-M46) CNSC staff orally reported that on August 6, 2005, Unit 8 at the Pickering NGS tripped as a result of a technician performing work on the wrong instrumentation channel on shutdown system 2. During the subsequent restart of Unit 8, failures in the electrical systems resulted in a partial loss of Class 4 power and a further reactor trip. CNSC staff further reported that OPG replaced a fuel component and has returned the unit to service. OPG's investigation of this event has not yet identified the cause of the electrical equipment failure.
  16. OPG noted that, while it may not be able to identify the direct cause of the failure, additional monitoring equipment has been installed on the system to detect any reoccurrence of the problem. OPG is inspecting the similar relays in question on the other units. OPG noted that there were no risks to the employees or to the public as a consequence of this event.
  17. In a further oral SDR, CNSC staff referred to a recent announcement by New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power) to proceed with the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau Generating Station. CNSC staff reported that NB Power has already completed some of the preparatory work and that the planned maintenance outage for the refurbishment is scheduled to begin in 2008. CNSC staff is reviewing NB Power's project and is formulating appropriate regulatory oversight plans.
  18. CNSC staff further noted that NB Power applied for, and the applicable CNSC Designated Officer approved, a short extension of the operating licence for the Point Lepreau Generating Station. The purpose of the extension is to allow NB Power to make a fuller application relating to the proposed refurbishment. As a result, the

**ACTION**

hearings for renewal of the operating licence would take place in the spring of 2006 instead of the fall of 2005.

#### Status Report on Power Reactors

19. With reference to the Status Report on Power Reactors (CMD 05-M47), CNSC staff provided the following information that was added orally during the meeting:
  - The Designated Officer approved OPG's request to remove Pickering A Unit 1 from the Guaranteed Shutdown State as a result of OPG having successfully completed the prerequisites identified in condition 12 of the operating licence. Unit 1 is now operating at low power. OPG must demonstrate completion of a number of further prerequisites before it can operate at higher power levels.

#### Update on Actions resulting from the Bruce A Fire Protection Inspection Held on February 16, 2005

20. In response to a request from the Commission at the May 19, 2005 meeting, CNSC staff presented CMD 05-M48 on the status of the fire protection issues at the Bruce A NGS. CNSC staff expressed its satisfaction with the actions taken so far by Bruce Power and with the action plan that Bruce Power is following to complete the outstanding work.
21. Bruce Power noted that it has modified its procedures to prevent similar accumulations of material in the future.
22. Referring the "before" and "after" photographs of the empty drum storage area, the Commission questioned why there appeared to be little or no change. In response, Bruce Power explained that the photographs illustrate that the corrective actions in that area remain to be completed. Bruce Power further explained that it is in the process of constructing a new storage building for the drums that will not be completed until early 2006.
23. In response to the Commission's comments on the apparent lack of timely awareness of this problem by Bruce Power's senior management, Bruce Power stated that it shared the Commission's disappointment in this regard and that steps were being taken to ensure improved reporting and management oversight in the future.

**Closure of the Public Meeting**

24. The public portion of the meeting closed at 2:56 p.m.

**Status Report on Gently-2 Security Measures**

25. With reference to CMD 05-M49, CNSC staff presented a report on the status of security measures at Hydro Québec's Gently site. Because the report contains prescribed security information, this portion of the meeting was not held in public.

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*Chair*

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*Recording Secretary*

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*Secretary*

## ANNEX A

CMD	DATE	File No
05-M43	2005-07-12	(1-3-1-5)
Notice of meeting held on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 in Ottawa		
05-M44	2005-08-02	(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 Wednesday, August 17, 2005		
05-M45	2005-08-02	(1-3-1-5)
Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held June 29, 2005		
05-M46	2005-07-28	(1-3-1-5)
Significant Development Report no. 2005-6 for the period of June 10, 2005 to July 28, 2005		
05-M47	2005-07-28	(1-3-1-5)
Status report on power reactors for the period of June 10, 2005 to July 28, 2005		
05-M48	2005-08-02	(26-1-0-0-0)
Update on actions resulting from the Bruce A Fire Protection Inspection held on February 16, 2005		
05-M49	2005-07-15	(1-11-27-6)
Status Report on Gentilly-2 security measures, S-298 standard implementation (Contains prescribed security information and is not publicly available)		