

# Darlington Refurbishment Project Ahead of Schedule and Under Budget

CLARINGTON – Minister Stephen Lecce announced a significant milestone in the government's plan to protect Ontario with the completion of construction on the refurbishment of the Darlington Unit 4 nuclear reactor. The unit is now complete and will be returning to service four months ahead of schedule, the overall refurbishment project coming in \$150 million under budget. Originally expected to return to power in August 2026, the unit has received approval from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to enter the initial power testing, which is expected to begin on February 12, and will be at full power shortly after. Refurbishment and continued operations over the next 30 years at Darlington is expected to generate up to \$90 billion in economic benefits for Ontario, support approximately 14,200 jobs and produce enough clean electricity to power 3.5 million homes. "Ontario is proving to the world that we can deliver major nuclear energy projects on-time and on-budget," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "Last year we returned another refurbished unit at Darlington four months ahead of schedule, and today we've done it again. Completing the full Darlington refurbishment on-time and under-budget is a made-in-Canada win for our economy, generating \$90 billion in economic benefits and supporting 14,200 good-paying jobs. In a world of uncertainty, our government is doubling down on Canadian nuclear technology and workers, with 96 per cent of investment benefiting Ontario's supply chain. It is a tremendous industrial advantage that Canada is among only six nations that own civilian nuclear technology, yet we stand alone as number one in building, operating, and refurbishing projects on-time and on-budget."

The Darlington refurbishment project involved the complete overhaul of all four nuclear reactor units, extending the station's operating life to at least 2055. With all four units refurbished and ready to be brought back online, this marks the completion of the world's largest refurbishment project to-date, with the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station ready to deliver more than 3,500 megawatts (MW) of clean, reliable, emission-free electricity — enough to power 3.5 million homes — for at least 30 more years.

The Darlington refurbishment project was completed by over 6,000 Ontario workers, including skilled tradespeople, support services workers and project managers. Refurbishment work included replacing thousands of fuel channels, feeder tubes, calandria tubes, and end fittings, as well as rehabilitating other critical components. The project also included system improvements and plant upgrades to meet current regulatory requirements. During the construction phase, the project contributed an estimated \$14.9 billion to Ontario's GDP, with 96 per cent of project spending retained in the province. For every dollar invested, Ontario's GDP increased by an average of \$1.30, ensuring Ontario dollars continued to support local workers, families, and businesses at home.

Nuclear energy remains the backbone of Ontario's clean electricity grid, providing the clean, reliable and affordable

power needed to support new housing, advanced manufacturing and growing communities. As a global nuclear leader, Ontario is home to the first grid-scale small modular reactor (SMR) under construction in the G7, as well as three nuclear generating stations, with a track record of delivering multiple large-scale refurbishments on-time and on-budget. "Bringing the Darlington refurbishment in ahead of schedule and under budget will clearly demonstrate our team's ability to deliver large and complex nuclear projects," said Nicole Butcher, President and CEO, Ontario Power Generation. "The skills we developed and lessons we learned during this project are invaluable as we proceed with refurbishing Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, continue construction on the G7's first Small Modular Reactor at the Darlington New Nuclear Project, and study the potential for up to 10,000 MW of new nuclear at Wesleyville."

Refurbishing the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station is a key pillar of Energy for Generations, the province's first-ever integrated energy plan to power a resilient, self-reliant and competitive economy. The government's integrated approach and record investments in energy infrastructure are also providing the certainty needed for Indigenous communities, municipalities, businesses and industry partners to invest confidently in Ontario's future. With a clear path forward, the plan is not only meeting the demands of today, but also protecting jobs, supporting workers and powering economic growth for generations to come.

Nuclear power currently provides about 50 per cent of Ontario's electricity supply and has positioned Ontario as one of the cleanest electricity grids in the world. According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the province's demand for electricity is forecast to increase significantly by 2050.

The Darlington refurbishment project was completed by over 6,000 Ontario workers over the course of the project, including members of:

Society of United Professionals - Power Workers' Union - Canadian Union of Skilled Workers- Electrical Power Systems Construction Association -United Association- International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker - Ironworkers/Rodmen - Millwright - Boilermakers-Carpenters - Labourers -Sheet Metal/Roofers- Operating Engineers - Cement Masons-Painters - Plasterers - Teamsters- Brick and Allied Craft Union/Tile & Terrazzo

OPG captured approximately 8,000 lessons learned over the course of the project that were applied throughout the refurbishment to save time and money, which will benefit other large nuclear projects, including the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station Refurbishment Project, refurbishment and new build at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station, and construction of the first small modular reactor (SMR) in the G7 at the Darlington site.

In September 2025, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) granted OPG a 20-year licence for the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, authorizing OPG to operate the station until November 30, 2045, which is

the longest nuclear operating licence granted to date in Canada.

"Ontario is showcasing world-class leadership in nuclear energy through the completion of one of the biggest refurbishment projects our province has ever seen. This is a major made-in-Canada milestone that not only supported our industries and workers throughout the refurbishment process, but will sustain thousands of good-paying jobs, generate tens of billions of dollars for our economy, and protect Ontario against economic uncertainty for decades to come. And it will provide our industries with the assurance that Ontario is open for business and is well-equipped to power the future."

- Sam Oosterhoff  
Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries

"Delivering the largest nuclear refurbishment in the world four months ahead of schedule and \$150 million under budget is a real testament to the strength, skills, and innovation of Ontario's highly trained workers and our nuclear supply chain. Like the early completion of work at another Darlington unit last year, this early finish demonstrates that Ontario can deliver large, complex, low-carbon infrastructure on time and on budget. As we continue to lead the largest nuclear expansion in North America, including the first small modular reactors in the G7, we can have confidence in our ability to power Ontario's future with reliable, clean nuclear energy for generations to come."

- Rudy Cuzzetto  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Mines

"Ontario's successful refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station is a remarkable achievement that strengthens our province's energy security for decades to come. Delivering this world class project ahead of schedule and under budget demonstrates what Ontario can accomplish when industry, workers, and government work together. This investment will provide clean, reliable power for 3.5 million homes while supporting thousands of good paying jobs across Ontario."

- David Smith  
Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Energy and Mines

"The on-time and on-budget refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station has secured thousands of skilled jobs in Clarington. With all four refurbished units back online, Darlington will generate enough energy to power 3.5 million homes for the next 30 years, supporting continued economic growth in Durham and across Ontario."

- Todd McCarthy  
Member of Provincial Parliament, Durham

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford and Minister Lecce, our government is setting the standard for how major energy projects should be delivered. Completing this project four months ahead of schedule and \$150 million below budget demonstrates Ontario's ability to deliver major infrastructure projects that support reliable, affordable energy for families and businesses in Whitby, Durham Region, and across the province."

- Lorne Coe  
Member of Provincial Parliament, Whitby

"Today marks a major milestone with the completion of

the Darlington Refurbishment Project. This achievement highlights Ontario's skilled workforce, who delivered this critical project ahead of schedule. Workers from our region and across Ontario are the backbone of this success. By protecting good local jobs, we strengthen our communities and build lasting economic growth close to home. Projects like this demonstrate that Ontario can continue to lead in clean, reliable, and affordable energy, while ensuring the benefits are felt in our communities for generations to come."

- David Piccini  
Member of Provincial Parliament, Northumberland-Peterborough South

"The world is watching Darlington right now, as we celebrate the successful completion of the refurbishment, which finished ahead of schedule and under budget. This accomplishment is rare in the international nuclear sector and speaks to how capable our nuclear crews are. By pulling off this major win, all while building the first grid-scale small modular reactor (SMR), Ontario's work sets Canada apart as a global energy superpower."

- Adrian Foster  
Mayor, Municipality of Clarington

"On behalf of the Municipality of Port Hope, I offer congratulations to our OPG neighbours in Darlington. Completing the Darlington Unit 4 nuclear reactor project ahead of schedule and under budget is commendable, allowing the benefits of this investment to be realized sooner and reinforcing OPG's role as a global leader in clean energy. I also applaud the Province of Ontario for delivering this project as part of its 25-year integrated energy plan and for its continued commitment to long-term energy solutions. We look forward to more exciting energy announcements in the near future."

- Olena Hankivsky  
Mayor, Municipality of Port Hope

"The completion of Unit 4 is another example of the world class expertise we have right here in Durham Region, the Clean Energy Capital of Canada. Darlington's successful refurbishment supports thousands of local jobs and strengthens Ontario's supply of clean, reliable power for decades to come. Our community is proud to play a leading role in delivering the energy that keeps Ontario strong and competitive."

- John Henry  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Municipality of Durham

"Aecon is immensely proud to have completed Unit 4, the fourth and final unit of this critical, decade-long project at OPG's Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. Working alongside OPG and our project partner Candu Energy, an AtkinsRéalis company, the capability, discipline, and commitment of our Darlington team and Ontario's skilled tradespeople drove unit-over-unit improvements in safety, schedule, and cost performance. Delivering the world's largest nuclear refurbishment project safely and five months ahead of schedule provides a model for major nuclear projects on a global scale."

- Jean-Louis Servranckx  
President and CEO, Aecon

"Completing the refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station ahead of schedule and under budget is

a testament to the skill, discipline and dedication of Ontario's unionized workforce, and to the strong collaboration between labour, employers, and government, with special mention to Ontario Power Generation and Minister of Energy and Mines, Stephen Lecce. LiUNA members are proud to deliver clean, reliable power that supports good jobs, strengthens our economy, and secures Ontario's energy future for generations to come."

- Joseph Mancinelli  
International Vice President and Canadian Director, LiUNA

"The completion of the Darlington Unit 4 reactor refurbishment construction ahead of schedule and under budget clearly demonstrates what Ontario's nuclear sector can deliver. With OPG's leadership and a highly skilled, province-wide supply chain, Ontario is well positioned to advance the next phase of nuclear development, supporting long-term jobs, economic growth, and a reliable electricity system for decades to come."

- Julie O'Driscoll  
Executive Director, Ontario's Nuclear Advantage

"Ontario has entered a period of unprecedented electricity demand and it's critical that we build the system needed to power the province's future. Congratulations to Ontario Power Generation on completing this major refurbishment ahead of schedule and under budget. We look forward to connecting the clean, reliable nuclear energy that OPG produces to homes, businesses and industries across Ontario through our transmission net-

work. Together, OPG and Hydro One are helping build a stronger, more resilient energy future for the province."


- David Lebetter  
President and CEO, Hydro One

"This milestone is the result of years of project management excellence and sustained collaboration across Ontario's nuclear sector. Completing the Darlington refurbishment ahead of schedule and under budget demonstrates the strength of Canada's nuclear industry, while helping position Canada as a global leader in nuclear refurbishment and life-extension projects. It also underscores the industry's ability to deliver clean, reliable power that supports long-term economic growth."

- George Christidis  
President and CEO, Canadian Nuclear Association

"Ontario's nuclear workers have once again shown the exceptional skill, dedication, and professionalism that keep our province powered. The highly skilled unionized workforce is at the heart of this success and play a crucial role in delivering clean, reliable energy for all Ontarians. Their achievements reflect the strength and ability within the nuclear sector that delivers large, complex projects in a fiscally and timely manner during a time of rising electricity demand and the need for new nuclear investment."

- Andrew Clunis  
President, Power Workers Union



## Here is how to reach us

**By mail: 136 Simcoe St North, Unit 4  
Oshawa, Ontario. L1G 4S7  
Tel: (905) 432-2657**

**Administration (General Inquiries)  
Tel: (905) 432-2605 Circulation  
Tel: (905) 432-9987**

**Classified/Display Advertising  
Tel: (905) 432-9989**

**News Tips And Information  
or Fax: (905) 404-0887**

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