

Ontario Greenlights Pickering Nuclear Generating Station Refurbishment to Create Nearly 37,000 Jobs

PICKERING – Minister Stephen Lecce announced the Ontario government has approved Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) plan to refurbish four CANDU nuclear reactors at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. To support the government's plan to protect Ontario workers and the province's long-term energy security, the refurbishment will extend the facility's operations to deliver affordable, reliable and clean power for up to 38 years. This will allow Ontario to continue leveraging its nuclear advantage to create more export opportunities, support good-paying jobs and build a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant economy in the face of U.S. tariffs.

"For more than 50 years, nuclear power has been the backbone of Ontario's energy grid, with the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station as one of the best-performing and continuously operating nuclear stations in the world," said Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines. "To deliver on our major jobs plan to get Canadians working, extending the life of the facility will create jobs for tens of thousands of skilled workers while we build up the Ontario supply chain and keep 90 per cent of our project spend in this country. After the previous government's attempt to shut down the facility, this refurbishment signals that we are doubling down on Canadian technology, Canadian workers and the Canadian supply chain to protect our economy from global instability."

Todd McCarthy stated: Our government is announcing a plan to create nearly 37,000 CA jobs by approving the refurbishment of Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

While the Liberals wanted to shut Pickering down, we are delivering a generational made-in-Ontario project that will keep over 90% of all spending here in Canada, protect workers and add \$41.6B to our economy.

Pending final licensing approvals from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), OPG will begin the Project Execution Phase to refurbish Pickering "B" units 5 to 8 in early 2027, with completion expected by the mid-2030s. Once completed, Pickering will generate an increased capacity of up to 2,200 megawatts (MW) of electricity, equivalent to powering 2.2 million homes. This will ensure Ontario has the energy it needs to power more homes and a strong, self-reliant and resilient economy.

The project is expected to create approximately 30,500 jobs during refurbishment, while sustaining 6,700 jobs throughout the station's operation. With a final budget of \$26.8 billion, more than 90 per cent of the project cost will be spent in Canada to support local businesses and deliver economic benefits across the province. Refurbishment and ongoing operation will increase Canada's GDP by \$41.6 billion. OPG will deliver the project using the same disciplined planning, oversight, and partnership model that has kept the Darlington refurbishment on-time and on-budget. OPG has also committed to investing \$100 million with Indigenous-owned companies over the life of the refurbishment project, ensuring that First Nations hosting nuclear facilities share directly in the economic benefits.

The Pickering "B" refurbishment is also expected to secure a long-term supply of Cobalt-60, a life-saving medical isotope used worldwide in cancer treatments and in the sterilization of medical equipment and food products, while supporting the government's work to double the number of medical isotopes produced in the province over the next four years.

"Our government's investment in the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is key to strengthening our economy and standing as a leader in energy production," said Peter

Bethlenfalvy, Member of Provincial Parliament, Pickering-Uxbridge. "We are refurbishing infrastructure and creating more well-paying jobs for residents in Pickering and across Durham Region."

Refurbishing Ontario's nuclear fleet is a key pillar of Energy for Generations, the province's first-ever integrated energy plan to ensure Ontario has the reliable, affordable power it needs to power new homes and drive economic growth. 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 it is protecting jobs, supporting workers and powering economic growth for generations to come.

According to Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the province's demand for electricity is forecast to increase significantly by 2050.

In September 2022, Ontario announced that OPG would continue to safely operate the "B" units (units 5 to 8) at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station through September 2026, pending CNSC approval.

In October 2024, CNSC authorized Pickering "B" units to operate until the end of 2026. Further operation of Pickering "B" units would require a complete refurbishment.

In December 2024, OPG completed the Project Initiation Phase of the Pickering refurbishment which included early engineering and design work, as well as securing components that require the longest-lead times. By placing orders in advance with key suppliers, OPG can ensure materials are available when Ontario needs them and help keep costs down.

In January 2025, the government approved OPG to proceed with the Project Definition

Phase of the Pickering refurbishment that will continue through 2026. Under this phase, OPG undertook activities to refine project scope and cost, complete engineering deliverables, negotiate commercial contracts and secure spots in the queue for long-lead components.

To reduce costs the government will continue exploring potential financial instruments that would benefit ratepayers, and in parallel, OPG continues to explore other optimal financing arrangements.

"By making this responsible investment into Pickering now, we ensure this clean energy workhorse will continue to power Ontario for future generations. The expertise developed during Darlington's refurbishment, together with the skilled Pickering team, ensures we are ready to deliver another complex nuclear project—on time, on budget, safely, and with quality."

- Nicole Butcher
President and CEO, OPG
"I am thrilled with this landmark announcement that secures the future of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station for generations to come. This critical refurbishment will deliver clean, reliable power, create thousands of good jobs, and support local businesses, while powering Ontario's transition to electrification, meeting the energy needs of a growing province, and supporting cancer care and the healthcare sector worldwide."

- Kevin Ashe
Mayor, City of Pickering
"Ensuring Pickering Nuclear Generating Station continues to deliver reliable power for decades to come is crucial to meeting rapidly increasing demand for electricity, driven by electrification and economic growth in Ontario. Refurbishment will complement the significant amount of new generation and energy storage being built across the province while leveraging existing infrastructure, land, and expertise."

ONTARIO'S PLAN TO

CREATE

NEARLY 37,000

JOB

APPROVED

PICKERING NUCLEAR REFURBISHMENT

- Lesley Gallinger
President and CEO, Independent Electricity System Operator
"Providing clean, reliable and affordable power for generations starts with strong commitments like this. Highlighting the scale of collaboration and innovation in the nuclear industry, investments in nuclear refurbishment support good jobs and create wide-reaching multiplier effects that extend into communities across the province. Congratulations to the Government of Ontario on yet another step in helping secure our clean energy future."

- Jessica Linthorne
President and CEO, Nuclear Innovation Institute
"Refurbishing four reactors at OPG's Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is a critical step toward securing the clean, reliable and affordable energy needed to power electrification, new technologies and growing demand for decades to come. This project will extend the station's life and create opportunities for lifesaving medical and industrial isotope applications, while sustaining thousands of

highly skilled jobs. It's great to see the province investing in nuclear projects that will help power Ontario's future."

- John Henry
Regional Chair and CEO, Regional Municipality of Durham
"There are so many positive things to say about the announcement made today by Minister Lecce. This project provides needed outcomes that benefit the Canadian economy including jobs for Canadian Workers, opportunities for young Canadians to start Apprenticeships in the skilled trades, provide clean, affordable and reliable energy in communities across Ontario and produce cancer-fighting and life-savings isotopes for the health care sector across the globe. This is a winning project for every Canadian."

- John Wabb
Chairperson, National Executive Board, Canadian Union of Skilled Workers



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