

OPG's Deep Geologic Repository Project

Communications and Consultation Report

Community Open Houses

October 2007



Prepared for
Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

Submitted by
Gartner Lee Limited

January 2008

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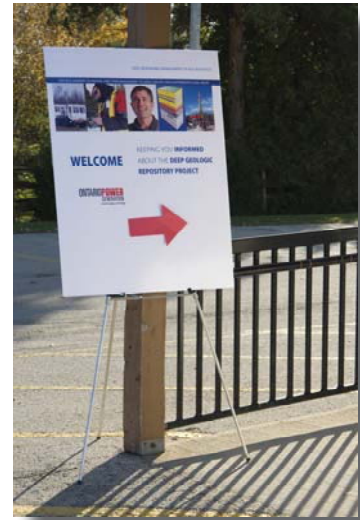
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Appendices

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1. Introduction

This report documents a series of seven Community Open Houses hosted by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) in October 2007. The report was prepared by Gartner Lee Limited and contains materials prepared by OPG and Gartner Lee Limited, and local newspaper reports.

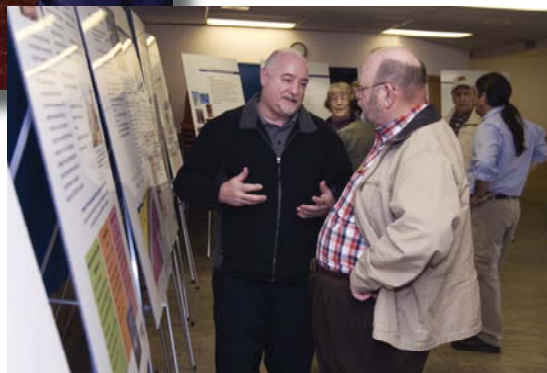


2. Community Open House Topics

The community open houses were held to provide interested community members with an opportunity to learn about and provide input on the following topics:

- the proposed OPG Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project,
- the Environmental Assessment undertaken as an integral part of the planning and approval process, and
- the science and technology behind safe storage of low, intermediate and high-level waste.


The open houses also encouraged community members to play an active role in the identification of “valued ecosystem components” (VECs), and to provide comments on the open houses and the proposed project (discussed below).



3. Notification

Notification to community members was provided by the following:

- A postcard format letter of invitation delivered by Canada Post’s Unaddressed Admail to nearly 50,000 households in surrounding communities, including Kincardine, Ripley, Walkerton, Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Chesley and Warton where the open houses were held (see Appendix A for a list of community distribution).
- A newspaper announcement published as an insert in the Kincardine News, Kincardine Independent, Lucknow Sentinel, Walkerton Herald Times, Owen Sound Sun Times, Port Elgin Shoreline Beacon, and the Warton Echo, prior to the open houses (Appendix A).
- Letters sent to local elected officials, City and County municipal staff leaders (including police, fire and emergency services), local and regional non-governmental organizations with a potential interest, and local and regional media outlets. Invitations were sent to a number of organizations in the United States as well (see Appendix A for the mailing list).
- Radio spots were purchased for four local radio stations that serve the open house communities. Five different announcements, specific to each open house were prepared (Appendix A).



YOU'RE INVITED TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OPEN HOUSE

OPG DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY (DGR) PROJECT

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to build a Deep Geologic Repository for the long term storage of low and intermediate-level radioactive waste at the Bruce site.

As part of the planning and approval process for the DGR project, we are conducting an environmental assessment that includes ongoing public consultation. At this first round of Open Houses we look forward to providing you with more information on the Project, answering your questions, and hearing your views. Your comments will be included in the Environmental Assessment documentation and submitted to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. They are the authority responsibility for this Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Open Houses will be held at the locations listed below. Open House hours of operation are 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kincardine – Monday October 15 Best Western Governor's Inn 791 Durham Street Kincardine, ON	Port Elgin – Thursday October 18 Saugeen Shores Community Complex 800 Tomlinson Drive, Port Elgin, ON
Ripley – Tuesday October 16 Ripley Huron Community Centre 17 Queen Street, Ripley, ON	Owen Sound – Tuesday October 23 Bayside Community Centre 1800 3rd Ave E, Owen Sound, ON
Walkerton – Wednesday October 17 Hartley House 7 Jackson N, Walkerton, ON	Chesley – Wednesday October 24 Chesley Fire Hall North end of Chesley, Bruce Rd. 10
	Warton Thursday October 25 Warton & District Community Centre Warton, ON

For more information:
Call: Marie Wilson at 519-361-4065,
or write to us at Ontario Power Generation, Box 7000, B21, Tiverton, ON,
N0G 2T0; or visit our project website at: www.opg.com/dgr

ONTARIOPOWER GENERATION

4. Dates and Venues

The community open houses were held at the following locations:

Kincardine – Monday October 15

Best Western Governor's Inn
791 Durham Street
Kincardine, ON



Ripley – Tuesday October 16

Ripley Huron Community Centre
17 Queen Street
Ripley, ON

Walkerton – Wednesday October 17

Hartley House
7 Jackson N.
Walkerton, ON

Port Elgin – Thursday October 18

Saugeen Shores Community Complex
600 Tomlinson Drive
Port Elgin, ON



Owen Sound – Tuesday October 23

Bayshore Community Centre
1900 3rd Ave. E.
Owen Sound, ON

Chesley – Wednesday October 24

Chesley Fire Hall
Bruce Road 10
Chesley, ON

Warton – Thursday October 25

Warton & District Community Centre
Warton, ON



5. Number of Participants

A total of 191 persons registered their names as attendees of the community open houses:

- Kincardine - 40
- Ripley - 13
- Walkerton - 16
- Port Elgin - 32
- Owen Sound - 42
- Chesley - 26
- Warton - 22



It is estimated that 90% of attendees signed in. Newspaper reports estimated the number of participants at more than 40 in Kincardine, 15 in Ripley, 18 in Walkerton and over 100 in Owen Sound.

Sign-in lists are provided in Appendix E. Newspaper reports are provided in Appendix B.



6. Community Open House Format

The community open houses provided an informal opportunity for community members to learn about the proposed project and to have their questions answered. Participants viewed display materials, had discussions with OPG representatives and enjoyed light refreshments.

The open houses ran from 4 pm to 8 pm. Take-home copies of recent OPG newsletters, brochures describing the DGR project as well as copies of the open house display panels were available (Appendix C).

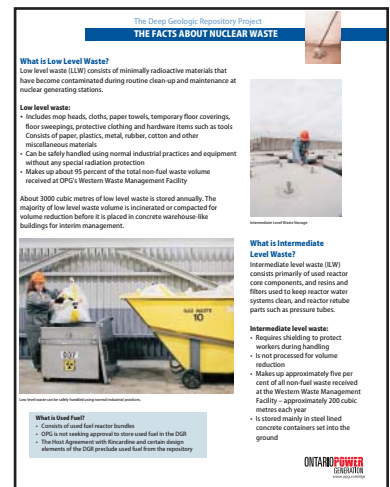
Participants were encouraged to fill out comment cards and to provide input on VECs that were important to them (see page 9 for details).



Display Panels

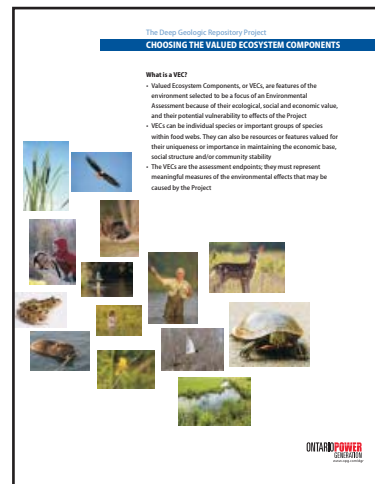
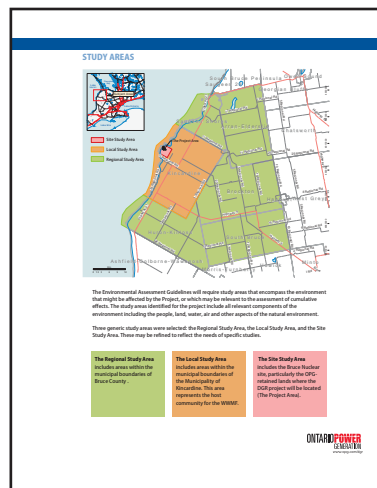
Nineteen 3'x5' display panels provided the following information:

- “Welcome” – illustrating OPG employees expressing a welcoming smile, and technical photos and illustrations
- “An Overview of the Proposed Deep Geological Repository” – illustrating key features of the proposed construction and operation of a DGR
- “The Facts About Waste” – illustrating and explaining low level and intermediate level nuclear waste
- “The Steps to Move Forward” – describing and illustrating the decision and approval process
- “Scientific Investigations” – explaining the Geoscientific Site Characterization Program
- “Geoscience Studies to Date” – two panels illustrating the methodology and results of drilled borehole explorations; a 2D seismic study; and a seismology study.
- “What is Radiation?” – a description of sources of radiation in the environment, and radiation exposure regulations
- “The Safety Case for the DGR” – a description of natural barriers to protect the public, and groundwater
- “Safety Scenario Review: Malfunctions and Accidents” – an outline of safety assessments for normal operation and accidents; during Pre-Closure and Post-Closure; and the potential effects on humans and on biota
- “Environmental Assessment Activities” – an outline of the current schedule moving forward
- “Study Area” – a map delineating the Regional Study Area, the Local Study Area, and the Site Study Area
- “Baseline Environmental Studies” – a list and illustrations of the environmental activities underway
- “Choosing the Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)” – an explanation of the term VEC, and how these environmental features are selected and evaluated during an environmental assessment



- “Proposed Valued Ecosystem Components” – two panels listing proposed specific environmental features
- “Have Your Say” – a panel listing the proposed VECs, with check boxes for participants to select those VECs they consider important
- “An International Perspective” – an overview of international experiences in the long-term management of nuclear waste
- “The Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF)” – an aerial photo mapping the current OPG Bruce site

See Appendix D for images of each of the display panels.



7. Opportunities for Input

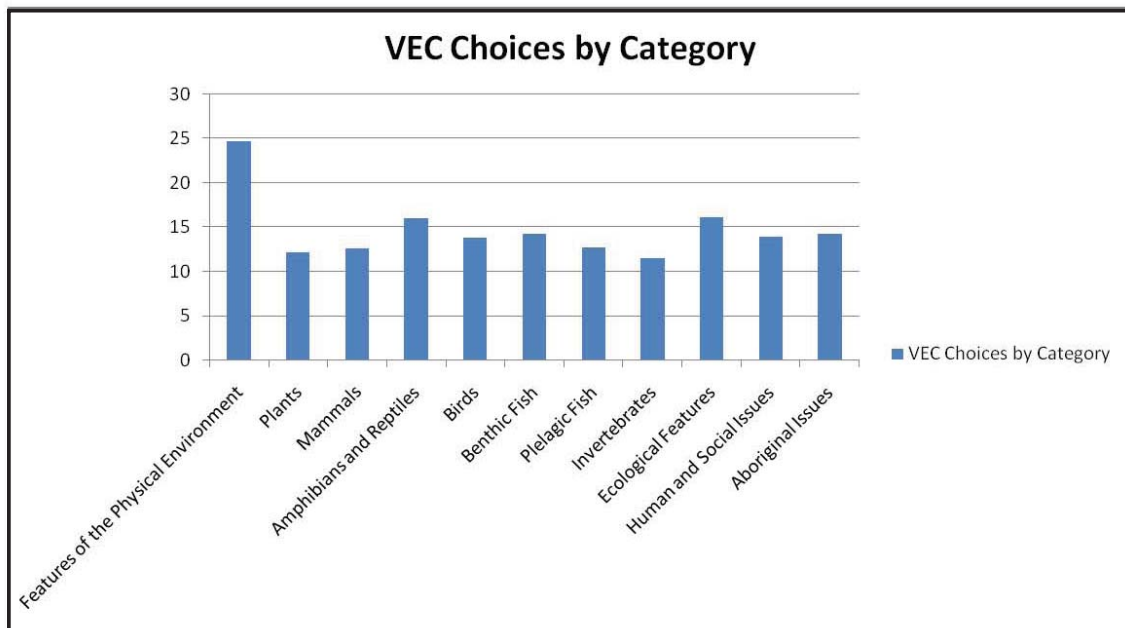
VEC panels

The open houses also encouraged community members to play an active role in the identification of “valued ecosystem components” (VECs). Laminated poster boards listed a variety of proposed VECs, which included

- Features of the physical environment
- Plants
- Mammals
- Amphibians and reptiles
- Birds
- Benthic fish
- Pelagic fish
- Invertebrates
- Ecological features
- Human and social issues
- Aboriginal issues



Using markers, up to fifteen per cent of Open House attendees chose to participate in the selection of those specific VECs they considered important to them. They were also invited to add any VECs missing. The following graph summarizes VEC choices by category. A full list of the proposed VECs, the poster boards, and a bar graph of detailed VEC choices by category are included in Appendix D.



Comment Cards

Comment cards in the style of large sized postcards provided the opportunity for participants to rate their experience at the open house, and to write comments. Cards could be filled out at the open house, or mailed in afterwards.

In total, 45 comment cards were returned. Of those, 29 included written comments, and 38 responded to the questions evaluating the open house. All comment card feedback, as well as graphs showing the cumulative question responses, are provided in Appendix E.



<p>Comments/Questions? Let us know.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p>PLACE STAMP HERE</p>
<p>Ontario Power Generation Public Affairs Officer P.O. Box 7000 Tiverton, Ontario N0G 2T0</p>	
<p>www.opg.com/dgr email: nwmd@opg.com Phone: 519-361-6414 ext. 4065</p>	



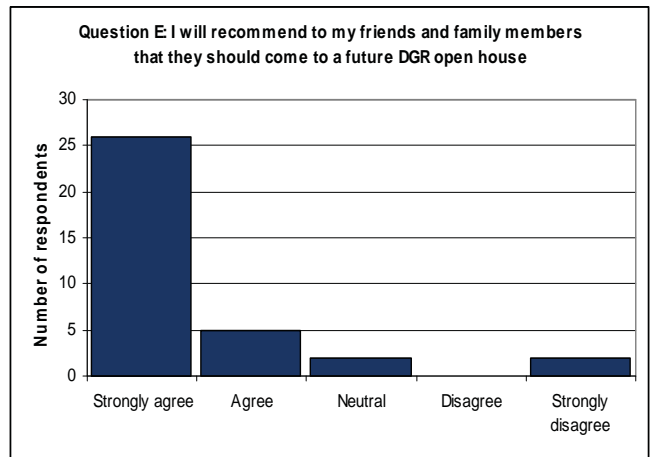
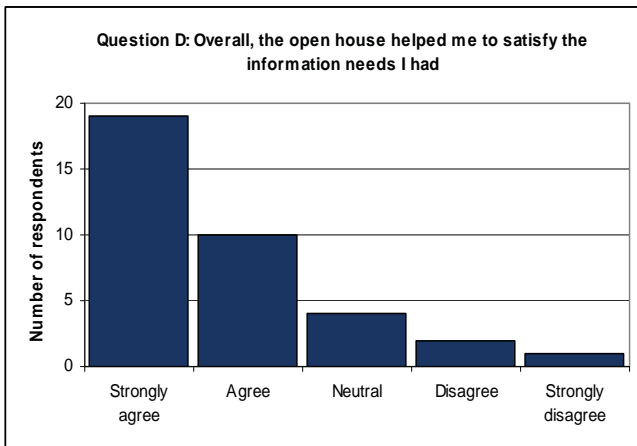
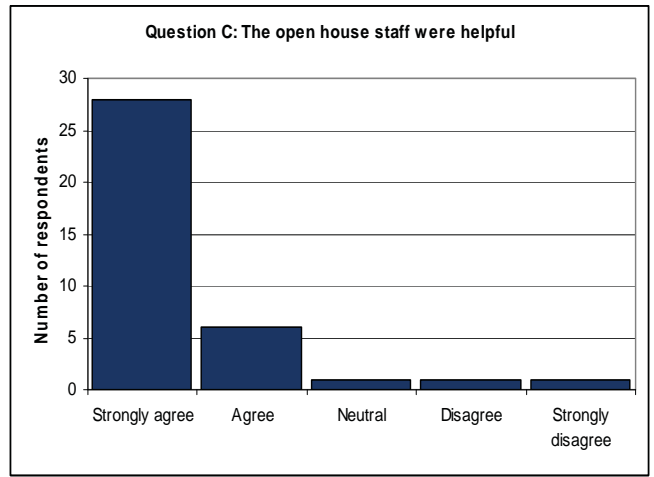
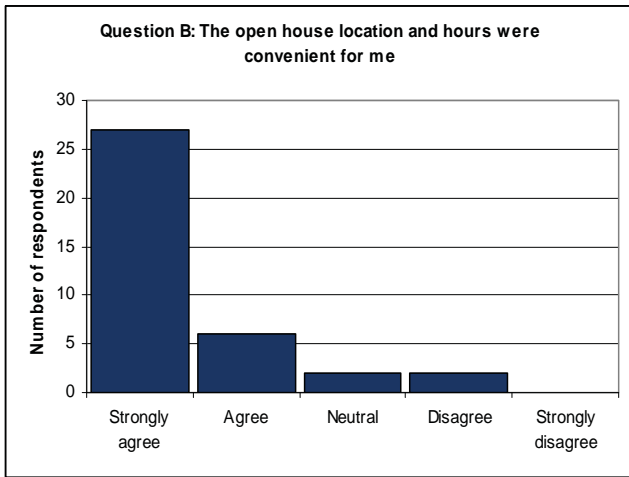
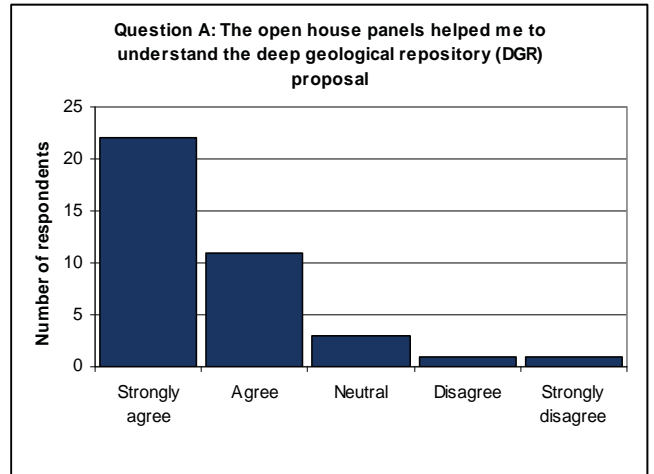
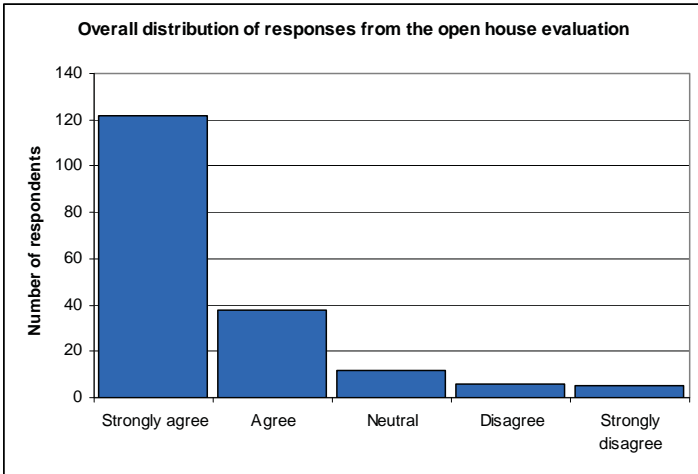
Please leave this card with our open house staff, or mail it back to us at your convenience. You can also email us with your comments at nwmd@opg.com or visit our website for more information at www.opg.com/dgr

Open House Evaluation
Please rank the following statements on a scale of 1 to 5 where "1" is "strongly disagree", "3" is neutral or "no opinion" and "5" is "strongly agree".

<p>a. The open house panels helped me to understand the deep geological repository (DGR) proposal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>d. Overall, the open house helped me to satisfy the information needs I had.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>b. The open house location and hours were convenient for me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	<p>e. I will recommend to my friends and family members that they should come to a future DGR open house.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>
<p>c. The open house staff were helpful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 2 3 4 5</p>	

Cumulative Responses to Comment Card Questions

- Total number of cards returned: 45
- 38 respondents answered questions evaluating open houses
- 29 respondents wrote comments

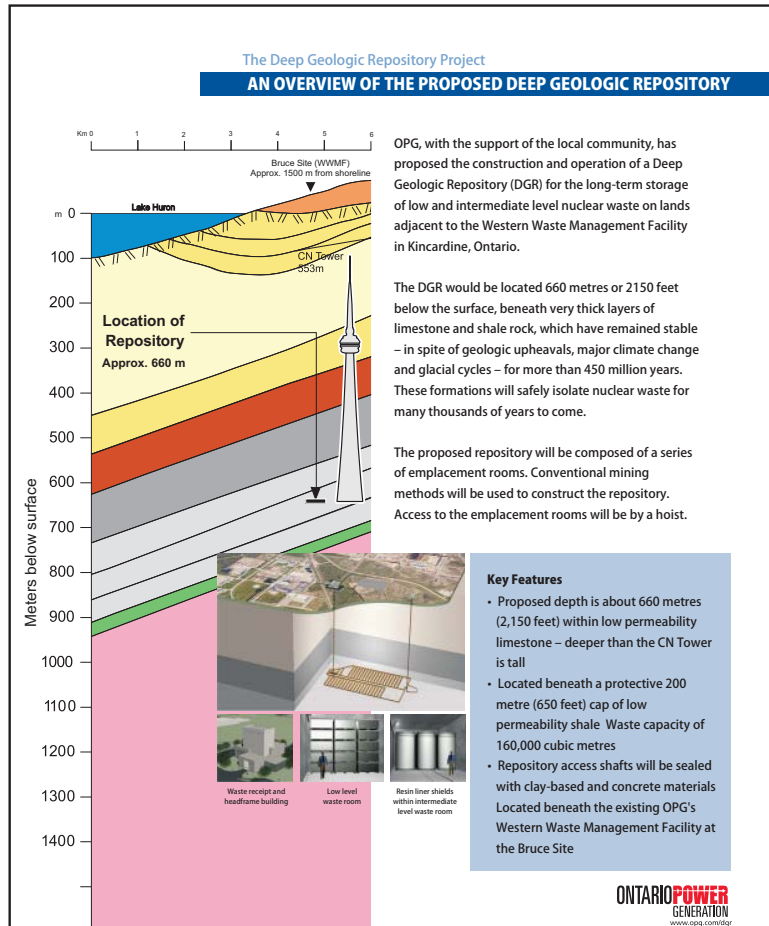


8. Key Areas of Discussion

Many Open House attendees were already familiar with the proposed DGR project, having participated in other stakeholder communications events. The majority of those who attended the Open Houses supported the project. One of the primary reasons for attending the Open Houses was to obtain an update on the progress of the project and the studies associated with it. Visitors tended to stay for about an hour – reading panels and talking to OPG resource people.

The discussions tended to revolve around a few key issues:

- Proximity of the proposed DGR to Lake Huron
- Transportation of waste
- Understanding the difference between levels of waste
- Suspicion that “the door is open” for high level waste disposal
- Security and the nature of rock: limestone vs granite gneiss
- Potential for groundwater contamination
- Effects on wildlife
- Effects of earthquakes on the proposed DGR
- Whether there are similar sites elsewhere

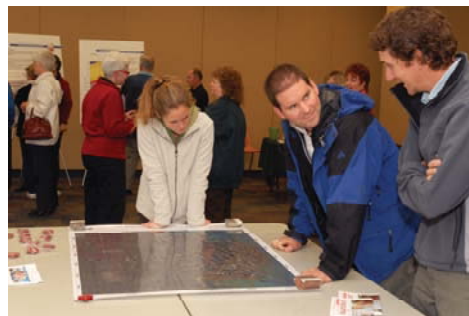


9. Media Coverage of the Open Houses

Journalists interviewed OPG representatives and guests during the open houses.

Following the community open houses, the following articles, editorials and letters-to-the-editor appeared in local newspapers and radio stations (see Appendix B):

- The Post (Hanover) – Friday October 19, 2007: “No More Open Houses” Letter to the Editor from Frank Barningham, R.R.1 Durham. (Note: Barningham is an outspoken anti-nuclear advocate, and member of Citizens for Renewable Energy)
- Owen Sound Sun Times – Thursday October 25, 2007: “Nuclear meetings are chance to be heard,” Letter to the Editor, in response to letter from Frank Barningham, by Brent Williams, Vice President, North American Young Generation in Nuclear. The letter disputes Barningham’s opinion, and encourages people to come out to open houses, learn about the project and have their concerns heard.
- The Kincardine Independent – Wednesday, October 24, 2007: “DGR Project’s Success Hinges on Keeping People Well Informed,” by reporter Kiel Edge
- Shoreline Beacon (Port Elgin) – Wednesday October 24, 2007: “OPG Waste Storage Vault to be in Service by 2017,” by reporter Liz Dadson
- Bayshore Broadcasting Centre (Owen Sound) – Wednesday October 24, 2007: “Ontario Power Generation’s DGR Open House Making a Stop in Owen Sound,” by reporter Ken Hashizume
- Radio CKNX AM (Walkerton) – Thursday October 18, 2007: “More OPG Waste Talk in Walkerton”
- Bayshore Broadcasting News Centre (Owen Sound) – “More Information on Nuclear Waste,” by reporter Ken Hashizume



10. Appendices

Appendix A: Notification Materials

- Letter of Invitation (addressed mail)
- Mailing List for Invitation Letters
- Postcard Invitation (unaddressed admail)
- Distribution Breakdown for postcard Invitation
- Newspaper announcement
- Placement of newspaper announcements
- Radio Scripts
- Distribution of Radio Scripts

Appendix B: Newspaper Coverage

- The Post (Hanover) – Friday October 19, 2007: “No More Open Houses” Letter to the Editor from Frank Barningham, R.R.1 Durham. (Note: Barningham is an outspoken anti-nuclear advocate, and member of Citizens for Renewable Energy)
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Appendix C: Open House Handouts

- OPG Fact Sheet: Western Waste Management Facility

“Neighbours: News from OPG’s Western Waste Management Facility”, October 2007

Appendix D: Open House Display Panels

- Display Panels
- VEC Panels
- Detailed VEC Choices (bar graph)

Appendix E: Open House Sign-in Sheets and Comment Cards

News from OPG's **Western Waste Management Facility**

SPECIAL EDITION: Keeping you informed about the Deep Geologic Repository

Neighbours

A part of the community for more than 40 years • NOVEMBER 2007



The above collage depicts several scenes from OPG's recent round of seven DGR open houses.

Public invited to talk DGR at series of open houses

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) hosted a series of seven open houses recently to give the public another opportunity to gain more information and provide feedback about the progress of the company's proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project for the long-term management of low and intermediate nuclear waste. Open houses were held in the Municipality of Kincardine, host of the DGR, Huron-Kinloss, Brockton, Saugeen Shores, Owen Sound, Chesley and Wiarton. Public consultation for the DGR project has been ongoing within the host municipality as well as neighbouring communities, and

will continue at a high level as the project moves into 2008. However, the more formal open house opportunities allow participants to have their concerns and responses documented as part of the Environmental Assessment process as mandated under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The majority of those in attendance at the open houses came to learn more about the project, while some members of the public had specific concerns with factors such as seismic activity, the protection of water and whether or not the DGR would accept

used fuel. OPG's DGR team, comprised of representatives from environmental assessment, geoscience and public affairs, was more than happy to answer questions, use the panels provided to explain the safety case and to assure people that the DGR, proposed for the Bruce site, will not be used to manage used fuel.

"We are pleased that about 200 residents attended our public open houses to raise questions and share their perspectives on the DGR with us," Terry Squire, Director of Public Affairs for OPG's Nuclear Waste Management Division (NWMD), said.

