

June 3, 2016

## **OPG PRESIDENT BRINGS CLEAN AIR MESSAGE TO CANADIAN SENATE**

*OPG Generation is more than 99 per cent free of GHG Emissions*

**Ottawa** - Ontario Power Generation will play an important role in helping fight greenhouse gases by reinforcing OPG's output of clean power, Jeff Lyash, the company's President and CEO, told a Senate committee today.

"Clean power is the foundation for competitiveness," Mr. Lyash told the Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources. "Clean power paves the way for a cleaner transportation sector and the electrification of the cars and trains. And clean power drives home made innovation and supports industries beyond the energy sector in communities across Ontario."

Mr. Lyash told the Committee OPG has turned itself into a major producer of clean power by ending the use of coal in 2014, and by relying on hydroelectric and nuclear power to produce about half the electricity needed in Ontario.

"This remains North America's single largest action to combat climate change to date," Mr. Lyash said about the coal closure. "We're proud of this achievement because it had the immediate benefit of cleaner air for Ontario, and the ongoing benefit of helping address global climate change and Canada's commitment to GHG emission reductions.

OPG's power is now virtually free of smog and greenhouse gas emissions. And we produce this power at a cost that is about 40 per cent lower than other generators in the province of Ontario," Mr. Lyash said.

OPG plans to reinforce this success by refurbishing the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (GS) and continuing to operate the Pickering Nuclear station.

"A significant part of our success in helping the ongoing decarbonisation of our economy lies in preserving and expanding the nuclear production we have today," Mr Lyash said. "That's what refurbishment is about. The Darlington Nuclear GS is one of OPG's most important assets."

Mr. Lyash explained, "The total cost of all four units is \$12.8 billion. In return for this investment, Ontarians will see \$14.9 billion in economic benefits, an average of 8,800 jobs created annually, an \$8.5 billion increase to household revenues, and about \$5.4 billion in revenues for all three levels of government."

He added, "Over its extended 30-plus-year operating life, Darlington will contribute approximately \$50 billion in additional economic benefits. That doesn't include the low cost of electricity after refurbishment; a cost that will be predictable and stable for another generation."

Mr. Lyash told the Committee, "To ensure Ontario has access to safe, clean, low-cost electricity during the Darlington refurbishment project, OPG is looking at plans to extend the life of our Pickering Nuclear plant to 2024. Doing so would save Ontario electricity customers up to \$600 million, avoid eight million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and protect 4,500 jobs across Durham Region."

OPG is Ontario's largest clean electricity generator, providing about half the power Ontario relies on every day. The power we produce is more than 99 per cent free of smog and greenhouse gas emissions.

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Mr. Lyash's remarks to the Senate Committee can be found at [opg.com](http://opg.com)

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