

November 4, 2015

## **Darlington Nuclear Vacuum Building Outage Successfully Completed**

*Large scale operation involved 1500-plus contract trade workers*

**Clarington** – Ontario Power Generation’s (OPG) Darlington Nuclear Generating Station has been safely returned to service following the successful completion of the Vacuum Building Outage (VBO).

“Executing a large scale project like the VBO safely, on time and on budget is a good way to prepare for the upcoming refurbishment. It required the same level of planning and co-ordination to make sure OPG staff and the 1,500 trades people worked safely and efficiently to get the job done,” said Glenn Jager, President of OPG Nuclear and Chief Nuclear Officer.

“By completing the VBO in 2015, we’re working six years ahead of schedule to ensure the station is available throughout Darlington’s upcoming refurbishment between 2016 and 2025.”

“The 55 nuclear reactors in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region provide an important source of energy to power our homes, businesses and cities,” said Mark Fisher, President and CEO of the Council of the Great Lakes Region. “Properly maintaining and investing in these facilities will ensure these world class assets can be operated at the highest safety levels.”

As part of its operating licence, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission requires OPG to shut down Darlington every 12 years for this work. The VBO is OPG’s largest project of 2015. OPG worked closely with the Independent Electricity System Operator to coordinate timing of the outage, which took about a month to complete.

### **Key Facts**

- Darlington’s vacuum building is a critical piece of the CANDU safety system. Standing at 71 metres tall, the building is made of reinforced concrete and is connected to the four reactor buildings by a pressure relief duct.
- By maintaining the building at negative atmospheric pressure, any release of radioactive steam from the pressurized systems would be sucked into the vacuum building and condensed into water, preventing its release to the outside environment.
- About 44,000 tasks were completed by pipefitters, electricians, carpenters, millwrights, boilermakers, and maintenance staff and contractors.
- OPG is Ontario’s largest clean power generator; its power is 99.7 per cent free of smog and greenhouse gas emissions.

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