Board Staff Interrogatory #190

Interrogatory

Reference:
Exhibit E2 / Tab 1 / Schedule 1 / pp. 11-12

OPG noted that it plans to take a Pickering Vacuum Building Outage (VBO) in 2022. OPG stated that it is investigating the use of technology that, subject to CSNC approval, may allow OPG to reduce the duration of the planned 2022 VBO.

OPG noted that it expects to seek the CNSC's approval in the first quarter of 2021. OPG stated that it will update its application should there be any resulting material change related to the 2022 VBO. Absent CNSC approval, OPG must plan to execute the 2022 VBO over the currently scheduled duration.

Question(s):

a) Please estimate the production loss associated with the planned 2022 VBO.

b) Please estimate the likely impact of the technology referenced above, if approved by CNSC, on the duration and production loss of the 2022 VBO.

c) Please provide an update on the CNSC approval and discuss whether OPG expects to update its application to reflect a shorter 2022 VBO. Please discuss the potential timing of this update.

Response

(a) See Ex. L-E2-01-CCC-44, part e).

(b) OPG is unable to provide an estimate of reduced duration (and production loss) resulting from the technology referenced above. This is a first of a kind proposal for the CNSC and as such carries a high degree of uncertainty for approval. The CNSC must decide, for each of the required VBO scope elements, if OPG's alternative assessment and inspection strategies meet licensing requirements.

(c) OPG intends to begin submitting a series of requests to CNSC in second quarter 2021 seeking to credit alternative assessment and inspection strategies for required VBO scope elements. It is anticipated that the CNSC will provide a decision by early 2022.

In compliance with its nuclear operator licence, OPG must continue to plan to execute the 2022 VBO as per the currently scheduled duration of 30 days. On this basis, OPG's production forecast included in this application continues to reflect OPG's best estimate of production during the rate term.