VECC Interrogatory #25

Interrogatory

Reference:
Exhibit F2-03-01, p.3

a) Is the Fuel Channel Life Extension project required by the CNSC? If yes, please describe the requirement that must met for the Pickering plant to operate over the next 4 years and the estimated budget for that project.
b) Was the amount built into the previous budget (i.e., as presented in EB-2016-0152) for Pickering Extended Operations the same as the $307M now being projected for this project in 2021? If not what is the new projected total cost?

Response

a) Yes, the activities within the Fuel Channel Life Extension project are required by the CNSC. OPG needs to continually update degradation mechanism assessments of fuel channels ("FC") to ensure fitness-for-service ("FFS") as part of safe operation of the Pickering and Darlington units as per CSA Standard requirements. CNSC requires OPG to demonstrate adequate margins exist on FC FFS assessments as part of their approval for FC life extension and continue operation of the Pickering units to their planned end of life and, in the case of Darlington units, to their planned refurbishment dates. The FCLE project performs focused research and development on critical areas such as fracture toughness of pressure tube, to demonstrate the required margins are maintained and to address CNSC's comments on fuel channel FFS assessments. The project also developed innovative assessment methodologies in order to comply with current CSA Standards. The estimated total budget for this project is $69.4M, as shown at Ex. F2-3-1, Table 1, line 3 (see Ex. L-F2-03-AMPCO-151).

b) The total budget for the Pickering Extended Operation initiative at EB-2016-0152 is the same as the $307M now being projected for this work at completion (see Ex. F2-2-1, p. 3; Ex. L-F2-02-Staff-229). For clarity, the Fuel Channel Life Extension project is not included in the Pickering Extended Operations initiative, either at EB-2016-0152 or currently.