Society Interrogatory #13

Interrogatory

Reference:
Exhibit F2-8-1 New Nuclear At Darlington

a) What information can OPG share on Ontario and Federal government support for new nuclear at Darlington?
b) On p3 of the exhibit, it is stated that the provinces of Ontario, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") in 2019 committing to collaborate on the development and deployment of SMRs in Canada. In 2020 the Province of Alberta entered into this MOU. What support does this collaboration provide to new nuclear at Darlington?
c) On p1 of the exhibit, forecast 2020 and 2021 OM&A spend is $66M and $206M respectively. Please provide the actual 2020 spend on new nuclear by OPG as well as the latest update to forecast 2021 spending.

Response

a) The Province of Ontario has publicly supported the development and deployment of SMRs through the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of Ontario with respect to the development of SMRs in Canada. On November 13, 2020, OPG announced resumption of planning activities for future nuclear power generation at its Darlington site, to host a SMR, with the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs publicly giving their support. On July 8, 2021, as part of the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines' concurrence for OPG's 2020-2026 business plan, the Minister asked that OPG continue its planning and preparation work for the development of a potential on-grid SMR at the Darlington site, including completion of the SMR technology selection process.

b) See Ex. L-F2-08-CCC-48.

c) The 2020 actuals for new nuclear activities was $13.1M. As of July 2021, the year end forecast for 2021 was $153M. The lower overall forecast is primarily due to lower than expected developer costs. The one area where forecast exceeds budget is for the geotechnical surveys (boreholes), for which the actual cost was higher than planned based on more detailed technical specification requirements.