AMPCO Interrogatory #159

Interrogatory

Reference: F2 T8 S1

a) Does OPG consider SMR technology to be mature and proven today?

b) Is OPG aware of any utility scale, commercially operating SMR currently in service? If so, where is it located, when was it commissioned and what has its reliability been like since commissioning?

c) Is it OPG's opinion that all costs (capital and OM&A) associated with engineering, designing, building, and commissioning an SMR Reactor should be covered by the ratepayer through its OEB Applications (this one and/or subsequent ones)? If so, why should the ratepayer be the sole source of funding for a currently unproven technology? If not, what costs does OPG think should be covered by the ratepayer? Where should additional funding come from?

d) Does OPG feel that SMR technology advances Government policy objectives regarding the environment, carbon, climate change, etc?

e) Has OPG investigated tax-based funding from Government for any portion of this SMR initiative? If so, what has been discussed (please provide documentation of the discussions). If not, why not?

Response

a) – e)

OPG declines to respond to these questions on the basis of relevance. These questions do not seek information that is relevant to any issue before the OEB in the current application. As explained in the following paragraph, OPG is not seeking recovery of any funding for SMR development in this application.

As indicated in Ex. F2-8-1, OPG is in the initial planning and preparation phase for SMR development at Darlington, and neither an SMR proposal nor a business case has been developed. OPG intends to develop a proposal by late 2021 upon which an investment decision can be made. As there are no forecasted planning and preparation expenditures for the development of an SMR at Darlington included in OPG's current payment amounts, OPG will record such costs incurred in 2020 and 2021 in the NDVA in accordance with O. Reg. 53/05. OPG will seek recovery of eligible amounts in the NDVA through a future proceeding.