CCC Interrogatory #48

Interrogatory

Reference: Exhibit F2/T8/S1/p. 1 – 2019 OPG Annual Report, p. 9

In the 2019 Annual Report (p. 9) there is reference to the following: OPG's goal is to deploy at least one SMR facility in Ontario, and support deployment of two in other Canadian jurisdictions that currently rely on coal:

a) Please explain what is meant by the comment OPG will "support" deployment of two SMRs in other Canadian Jurisdictions that currently rely on coal;
b) Will these activities by undertaken by the regulated operations, the unregulated operations within OPG or through an affiliate? Please explain;
c) Please explain why Ontario ratepayers should be required to fund the development of SMR facilities outside of Ontario.

Response

a) OPG is in the initial planning and preparation phase of assessing the feasibility of a grid-scale SMR in Ontario. Other provinces have also expressed interest in SMR technology. The provinces of Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and New Brunswick have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-operatively explore the development of SMRs. Saskatchewan and Alberta are exploring the use of SMRs as an option to assist them in reducing their reliance on coal. OPG is collaborating with SaskPower and Bruce Power on an SMR technology review process designed to identify technology partners that would facilitate a fleet approach to grid-scale SMR deployment across Canada. The benefits of a fleet approach could include efficiencies related to training, operations and maintenance, and engineering and licensing, which may reduce the ongoing costs for a SMR at the Darlington site.

b) As indicated in Ex. F2-8-1, OPG is in the initial planning and preparation phase of SMR development at the Darlington site, and an SMR proposal or business case has not yet been developed. Other than the SMR technology review process identified in part a) above, no decisions have been made at this time on OPG support for SMR activities outside of Ontario. See also Ex. L-F2-08-Environmental Defence-23, part d).

c) OPG is not seeking any funds in this application toward development of SMRs outside of Ontario.