

Minutes of the 285th Meeting of the Atomic Energy Control Board held in the Public Hearing Room, AECB Offices, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Thursday, January 28, 1999, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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Present:

Dr. A.J. Bishop, Chair  
 Dr. C.R. Barnes  
 Dr. Y.M. Giroux  
 Mr. A.R. Graham

P. Marchildon, Secretary  
 A. Nowack, Acting Senior Counsel  
 B. Gerestein, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Dr. A.J. Carty

Board staff advisers were M. Duncan, P. Elder, J. Harvie, R. Irwin, R. Leblanc, M. Measures, B. Parsons, C. Poirier, M. Taylor, P. Thompson and P. Webster.

#### Chair and Secretary

1. The President took the chair and the Secretary of the Board acted as Secretary of the meeting with the Manager, Board Services Group, acting as recording secretary.

#### Constitution

2. Notice of meeting having been properly given (BMD 99-01) and a quorum of Members being present, the meeting was declared to be properly constituted for the transaction of any business that might be brought before it.

3. The Secretary noted that since the meeting of December 17, 1998, Board Member Documents BMD 99-01 to BMD 99-14 had been distributed to Members. These documents are further detailed in Annex A of these minutes.

#### Adoption of Agenda

4. The updated agenda, BMD 99-02.1, was adopted as presented.

DECISION

#### Preliminary List of Agenda Items for the February 24, 1999, Board Meeting

5. Members received for information the preliminary list of agenda items for the next meeting of the Board, February 24, 1999; reference

BMD 99-03.1. The Chair noted that the AECL Chalk River items have been deleted.

### Introduction of Members

6. The Chair introduced the Members of the Board and provided a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Alan R. Graham, who was appointed to the Board effective January 1, 1999, and is attending his first meeting as a Member of the AECB.

### Minutes of the 284th Meeting of the Board, December 17, 1998

7. On motion duly moved and seconded, with Mr. Graham abstaining, the Board approved the minutes of the 284th meeting; reference BMD 99-04.

DECISION

### Business Arising

8. The Board received for information the report on business arising from the previous minutes, as itemized in BMD 99-05.

### Significant Development Report

9. Members reviewed Significant Development Report No. 1999-1 with staff who provided updates; reference BMDs 99-06 and 99-06.1.

Power Reactors: In addition to the written text, staff added that Pickering Town Council will be dealing with the issue of fire protection at Pickering nuclear generating station (NGS) at its next Council meeting.

The Chair discussed with staff a recent event at the Pickering NGS station involving a leak of heavy water. Staff indicated that further time is required to prepare a report on the incident.

Materials Regulation: Members reviewed with staff the issue of the COGEMA JEB pit drain system and also reviewed the items noted in the updated Significant Development Report; reference BMD 99-06.1. In response to a Member's question on the use of radium in watch dials, staff indicated that watches are no longer made using radium-illuminated dials but some older watches with radium are still in use. Staff also noted that the probable dose to a wearer of such a watch is estimated at 1% of the dose allowed for a member of the public. With respect to the radiography incident which occurred near Dryden, Ontario, the Chair noted that this incident appeared to have

ACTION:  
M. Duncan

been unreported for two years. Staff will provide a further update on this incident once their report is complete.

### Status of Legal Issues

10. Members reviewed with Acting Senior Counsel the report on the Status of Legal Issues; reference BMD 99-07.

### Next meetings of the Board

11. The next meetings of the Board will be held February 24, 1999, in Ottawa, Ontario, with a February 3 deadline for submissions and March 25, 1999, in Ottawa, with a March 4 deadline for submissions.

### New Brunswick Power Corporation - Point Lepreau Solid Radioactive Waste Management Facility

12. The Chair stated that Mr. Graham declared to her a possible perception of bias concerning NB Power since he was Minister of Natural Resources and Energy in the New Brunswick government from 1991 to 1998.

The Chair indicated that she has reviewed Mr. Graham's declaration and agreed that he would not participate in discussions or decisions regarding any NB Power facilities until May 2000, when two years will have elapsed since he was Minister. (Mr. Graham left the meeting.)

AECB staff gave a presentation on the request following BMD 99-08.

(Continued in item 19)

(Mr. Graham rejoined meeting.)

### British Columbia Cancer Agency

13. AECB staff gave a presentation on the request of the British Columbia Cancer Agency for renewal of the Medical Particle Accelerator Nuclear Facility Operating Licence for its Fraser Valley Cancer Centre, Surrey, British Columbia; reference BMD 99-09. (Continued in item 20)

### Centre hospitalier des vallées de l'Outaouais

14. AECB staff gave a presentation on the request of the Centre hospitalier des vallées de l'Outaouais, Gatineau, Quebec, for renewal of its Medical Particle Accelerator Nuclear Facility Operating Licence; reference BMD 99-10. (Continued in item 21)

### Ontario Hydro - Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations A and B

15. Members received for initial consideration a presentation from G.C. Andognini, accompanied by R.J. Strickert, G. Preston and B. MacTavish, on the application of Ontario Hydro for renewal of the operating licences for the Pickering NGS-A and Pickering NGS-B, Pickering, Ontario. G.C. Andognini gave a presentation, following BMD 99-12.1A, outlining Ontario Hydro Nuclear (OHN) performance during the past licensing period. B. Strickert, accompanied by J. Coleby, J. Froats and C. Sellers of OHN, D. Milton of the Power Workers' Union and J. Blair of the Society of Ontario Hydro Professional and Administrative Employees, continued the presentation on behalf of Ontario Hydro following the outline in BMD 99-12.1. B. Strickert reviewed operations at Pickering NGS, performance of key operations and programs, the status of Pickering NGS-A, and challenges facing the station. He concluded that the facility has operated safely and continues to do so, and requested renewal of the operating licences for Pickering NGS-A and Pickering NGS-B for a period of two years.

Members discussed with the Ontario Hydro representatives a number of issues including industrial safety, funding from the Ontario Hydro Board, and labour relations.

AECB staff then gave a presentation on the relicensing request following BMD 99-12 and attached overheads. Staff provided a summary of their report and reviewed station performance issues including maintenance, training, organizational management, and human performance. Staff recommended that the Board give initial consideration to renewal of the operating licences for the Pickering stations for a period of two years.

Members discussed with the applicants a number of topics in further detail including AECB staff's view of the sustainability of improvements, performance indicators, security, doses to the public from the facility, the maintenance schedule process, human performance issues, and relations between workers and management. D. Milton indicated that the relationship has improved between management and labour and that most grievances are now handled at the local level. J. Blair indicated, too, that the relationship has improved with the employer and problem resolution measures are in place. In response to a Member's question about calibration

and deficiencies noted in the AECB staff report, Ontario Hydro indicated that the issues are being addressed through training but that more work needs to be done. AECB staff indicated that further assessments in these areas will be undertaken over the next two years. In response to a question from the Chair regarding the table on page v of the Executive Summary in the AECB staff report showing that the majority of issues are conditionally acceptable, G.C. Andognini indicated that a response would be provided at the March meeting.

I. Kock, Durham Nuclear Awareness (DNA), gave a presentation on the subject request following BMD 99-12.2. I. Kock summarized her written presentation stating that Pickering NGS-A should remain closed and that Pickering NGS-B should be shut until fire protection issues are resolved. I. Kock indicated that quantifiable change, with targets set in the licence, should be imposed relating to upgrades and improvements to be made at the stations. She also reviewed with Members issues including decommissioning and the need for plans and funding guarantees, fire hazards and the need to ensure conformity with codes, earthquake risks, zebra mussel control measures, emergency planning and warning measures for local residents, environmental review issues including tritium in groundwater, brass condenser emissions, and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

With respect to venting radioactive emissions following an incident, AECB staff indicated that they are not opposed to early venting but that the proposal had not been adequately studied and a more detailed analysis is needed to confirm that this strategy would indeed result in dose savings. Staff added that the work will be completed by the summer of 1999. With respect to consultation between Ontario Hydro and DNA, I. Kock indicated that most information has been supplied but that she has concerns about the process followed for the recent environmental review in that the scope and terms of reference were decided before DNA involvement. In reply to a Member's question about emergency planning and notification to local residents, Ontario Hydro indicated that they are working with Emergency Measures Ontario (EMO) on the issues and require direction from EMO. Ontario Hydro also noted that viewpoints of the public are not consistent from one area to another making resolution of the warning siren issue more complex, but the utility would install sirens if requested by EMO. With respect to the issue of PVC insulating cable at Pickering NGS-A, Ontario Hydro indicated that such cabling would be replaced in a phased process based on safety significance. Regarding tritium in groundwater, Ontario Hydro indicated that two approaches are in place and have been submitted

to the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE). Ontario Hydro has undertaken a site-wide monitoring program with a view to understanding all groundwater movement on the site. In response to I. Kock's concerns related to the Board's processes, the Chair indicated that new procedures are being developed pursuant to the new legislation and that I. Kock may wish to write to the Secretary of the Board outlining her views and suggestions. The Chair noted, in conclusion, that startup of the Pickering NGS-A units is a separate issue and will not be dealt with through this relicensing request.

Members received for consideration a submission from the Town of Pickering on the subject request; reference BMD 99-12.3.

Members received for consideration a submission from S. Kleinau, Citizens for Renewable Energy, on the subject request; reference BMD 99-12.4.

(Continued in item 23)

(The meeting recessed from 10:45 to 11 a.m.)

#### Ontario Hydro - New Licences following Change of Ownership

16. Members received for initial consideration a presentation from R. Osborne, Ontario Hydro, on the request by Ontario Power Generation Inc., Toronto, Ontario, for new operating licences for nuclear facilities currently operated by Ontario Hydro; reference BMD 99-11.1.

R. Osborne discussed the scope of the application, nuclear licensing issues, the proposed corporate structure, qualifications of the new licensee, and the restructured electricity market. He concluded by noting that the commitment to safety is paramount and requested that the Board issue new licences to Ontario Power Generation Inc.

In response to a question from the Chair on the operations of the Power Generation Inc. Board of Directors, R. Osborne indicated that the current process, with a subcommittee of the Board dealing with nuclear issues, will continue but that a nuclear oversight Committee of the Whole will be established. R. Osborne noted that this change will mean that nuclear issues are dealt with on a separate agenda from other issues and that nuclear issues will therefore gain more attention. In reply to a Member's question on resolving safety issues where they may conflict with generating issues, R. Osborne reviewed the interrelationships between the new corporations which are to be

created. He indicated that conflicts will continue to be addressed with safety concerns being paramount.

AECB staff gave a presentation on the subject request following BMD 99-11 and attached overheads. Staff reviewed issues including safe operation of the facilities, reliability of off-site power, environmental reviews, and the Integrated Improvement Program (IIP). On the issue of reliability of the grid to ensure safety, R. Osborne indicated that draft agreements have been developed and will be in place well in advance of the transition to an open market. In response to a Member's question on the possibility of selling facilities in future, R. Osborne indicated that the new company will need to "decontrol" and after 10 years will not have more than one third of the electricity production market - it currently has about 80%. The methods for decontrol have yet to be determined but over time there will be a divestiture of generating capacity. The Chair indicated a concern expressed by nuclear regulators in Western nations about the effects of deregulation of electricity markets and that the ensuing competition could result in a reduction in resources available for safety-related issues. R. Osborne indicated that nuclear operations are only a part of Ontario Power Generation and that nuclear safety will always be the primary consideration. In reply to a question on decommissioning and funding, R. Osborne indicated that a segregated fund has been established for the decommissioning.

Members received for consideration a submission from S. Kleinau, Citizens for Renewable Energy, on the subject request; reference BMD 99-11.2.

(Continued in item 22)

### Advisory Committees

17. Members received for information the Report on Activities of the Advisory Committees and of the Medical Advisers; reference BMD 99-13.

### Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safety (ACNS)

18. Members received for information comments from the ACNS on the AECB Performance Indicator Program for Canadian Power Reactors; reference BMD 99-14.

(The meeting continued in camera at 11:45 a.m. with the absence of Mr. Graham.)

New Brunswick Power Corporation - Point Lepreau Solid Radioactive Waste Management Facility (Continued from item 12)

DECISION

19. Having received and heard the submissions and presentations of the applicant and AECB staff, the Board approved the issuance of a Waste Management Facility Operating Licence to New Brunswick Power Corporation for the Point Lepreau Solid Radioactive Waste Management Facility, Lepreau, New Brunswick, for a two-year period to January 31, 2001.

(Mr. Graham rejoined the meeting.)

British Columbia Cancer Agency (Continued from item 13)

DECISION

20. Having received and heard the presentations of AECB staff, the Board, with Mr. Graham abstaining, approved the issuance of an Accelerator Operating Licence to the British Columbia Cancer Agency for the Fraser Valley Cancer Centre, Surrey, British Columbia, for an indefinite period.

Centre hospitalier des vallées de l'Outaouais (Continued from item 14)

DECISION

21. Having received and heard the presentation of the AECB staff, the Board, with Mr. Graham abstaining, approved the issuance of an Accelerator Operating Licence to the Centre hospitalier des vallées de l'Outaouais, Gatineau, Quebec, for an indefinite period.

Ontario Hydro - New Licences following Change of Ownership (Continued from item 16)

INITIAL  
CONSIDERATION

22. Having received and heard the submissions and presentations of the applicant, AECB staff and intervenors, the Board gave initial consideration to the application of Ontario Hydro for the issuance of Nuclear Facility Operating Licences for the requested periods and facilities to Ontario Power Generation Inc., Toronto, Ontario.

Ontario Hydro - Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations A and B (Continued from item 15)

INITIAL  
CONSIDERATION

23. Having received and heard the submissions and presentations of the applicant, AECB staff and intervenors, the Board gave initial consideration to the application of Ontario Hydro for Power Reactor Operating Licences for Pickering NGS-A and Pickering NGS-B, Pickering, Ontario.

Next Meeting of the Board

24. The next meeting of the Board will be held in Ottawa, February 24, 1999.

Closing

25. The meeting closed on consensus at 12:02 p.m.

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Chair

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Recording Secretary

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Secretary