

# **UPDATE ON THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S NUCLEAR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2019**

Provided to the Durham Nuclear Health Committee

January 17, 2020

## **1. Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan**

- a. Pickering & Darlington IPs approval 2019
  - i. Following the December 2017 approval of the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) Master Plan, PNERP Implementing Plan work was prioritized, with the development of the Bruce, Pickering and Darlington Plans revisions up first.
  - ii. These plans all received approvals from the government in the 2018-2019 timeframe and have been distributed to stakeholders and made publicly available on the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management's website.
  - iii. Work is currently underway on the development of the PNERP Implementing Plans for the Fermi 2 Nuclear Generating Station, Transborder Emergencies and Other Radiological Emergencies.
- b. Technical Study Report
  - i. The PNERP Technical Study was commissioned following the PNERP public consultation and an independent advisory committee review which found the planning basis of the 2017 PNERP generally sound but recommended to the Solicitor General that another study be conducted giving consideration to at least 365 days of weather and to topographical characteristics that could influence plume dispersal.
  - ii. Among other things, an emergency plan's planning basis determines the size of the emergency planning zones.
  - iii. Work was undertaken by ENERCON Consultants and a final report was issued to in the spring of 2019.
  - iv. The study remains under review by the government.

## **2. Exercise participation**

- a. Exercise Huron Resolve (Bruce Power)
  - i. On October 22 and 23, 2019, OFMEM participated in Exercise Huron Resilience, focusing on a simulated emergency at Bruce Power. The provincial participation was focused on Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) notification and dose modeling.
- b. Darlington Unified Command 2020 (Ontario Power Generation)
  - i. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) is currently considering its level of participation in Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) upcoming 2020 Darlington Exercise. A decision is expected in the coming months and will be communicated to partners including OPG and the Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO).
- c. The PEOC participated in numerous notification drills with Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power over the course of 2019, and will continue to do so in 2020.

## **3. CNSC-led KI Working Group**

- a. This Working Group was formed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) following the CNSC licensing hearings for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) in June 2018.
- b. Membership:
  - i. Core members include representatives from:
    - CNSC;
    - OFMEM;
    - Ontario Ministry of Health; and
    - OPG.

Each of these organizations are signatory to the terms of reference.

- ii. Public Health Units:
  - Peel Region;
  - York Region;
  - City of Toronto;

- Durham Region;
- Simcoe Muskoka District;
- Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge District; and
- Peterborough County.

iii. Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) from:

- Regional Municipality of Durham;
- Regional Municipality of Peel;
- Regional Municipality of York;
- City of Toronto;
- City of Kawartha Lakes, and
- City of Peterborough.

iv. Health Canada.

- c) Additionally, CNSC staff established a special advisory committee for the purpose of advising CNSC staff. The composition of the committee was determined by the CNSC.
- d) The Working Group was tasked with examining the distribution of Potassium Iodide (KI) pills to the 50 km Ingestion Planning Zone (IPZ) around the Pickering NGS during an emergency.
- e) The 2019 work of this Group was focussed on:
- i. Developing the working group terms of reference.
  - ii. Preparation leading to the Phase 1 Workshop, held in Pickering in November 2019, which focussed on:
    - Current provincial and federal requirements for the distribution of KI pills;
    - Considerations and education concerning KI pill emergency distribution in the IPZ;
    - Means of KI pill distribution in relation to other factors associated with a nuclear emergency response; and,
    - Availability and scope of public emergency preparedness information related to KI pills.
- c. 2020 will focus on the Phase II strategy, including:
- i. Assessing the feasibility of pre-distribution of KI pills to all schools within the IPZ; and,
  - ii. Establishing clear and detailed plans for the distribution of KI pills throughout the IPZ, if necessary.

#### **4. ERAMG**

- a. The Environmental Radiation and Assurance Monitoring Group (ERAMG) went through a major revision and update to the Plan in 2019. The ERAMG Plan is in the approval stage.
- b. ERAMG Members participated in a combined two-day meeting and workshop on December 4 and 5, 2019.

#### **5. Public Education & Awareness**

- a. OFMEM participated in the Sept. 4 & 10 Innovation Sessions at DEMO. The sessions were used to help draft the public education action plan, and key messaging for the Pickering/Darlington Nuclear Sub-Committee, that will be used to target essential audiences.
- b. A DRAFT Provincial Public Education and Communications Strategy is under development by OFMEM.
- c. Stakeholder consultations on the Strategy will be undertaken in the coming weeks with a target completion date of March 2020.

#### **6. Public Alerting (Alert Ready)**

- a. Revised, pre-scripted Emergency Bulletins, used to advise the affected public in the event of a nuclear emergency, were reviewed by stakeholders.
- b. These bulletins are now compatible for use in Ontario's Alert Ready program which:
  - i. Allows the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) to issue Broadcast Immediate (BI) alerts to the public.
  - ii. Alerts are issued when there is an immediate threat to life or property and provide the public with protective actions to take.
  - iii. Alerts are sent to radio, television and alert-capable LTE devices in geo-targeted alert areas.
  - iv. Bulletins are sequenced to address the evolving nature of a nuclear incident and are issued in alignment with prescribed actions, from

providing a heads-up to the taking of specific actions, when necessary.

- c. The PEOC would also send the alert to existing subscription lists via e-mail, text message as well as to social media feeds such as Twitter and Facebook.

## **7. OFMEM Organization**

- a. Douglas Browne was appointed Acting Chief, Emergency Management, in November 2019. Chief Browne joined the Emergency Management Branch from his previous role as Deputy Fire Marshal of Ontario and will lead the organization until the recruitment of a permanent Chief has been completed.
- b. In October 2019, it was announced that Ray Lazarus was the successful candidate for the Director, Emergency Management competition. Ray previously served as Acting Deputy Chief, Planning and Program Development, Lazarus and brings a wealth of planning, program development, operational and leadership experience to the role.
- c. Competitions are underway to permanently recruit for a new Deputy Chief, of Planning and Program Development, and for three Program Managers, including the Program Manager, Planning and Exercises, which oversees OFMEM's nuclear portfolio.