

POWERWORKS

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March 2015 **POWER WORKERS' UNION NEWSLETTER**

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PWU Participates in Reactor Operating Licence Renewal Hearings

The PWU has a long tradition of making representations on behalf of its members and the broader public interest at regulatory proceedings. The Union has prepared a written submission for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearing into the renewal of the Power Reactor Operating Licence held by Bruce Power for its Bruce "A" and Bruce "B" Generating Stations. The PWU regularly participates in operating licence renewal proceedings for OPG's nuclear generating stations as well.



In the past, CNSC public deliberations have attracted nuclear power opponents. It is natural that people have questions and comments about the safety of nuclear operations in Ontario, particularly those who live near nuclear sites. Their concerns must always be addressed, never dismissed. The importance of nuclear safety and its impact on the environment transcends all other considerations in these processes. It is nonetheless a fact that Ontario's nuclear safety record is outstanding. No member of the public has ever been harmed during the entire history of Ontario's nuclear operations. Notwithstanding this outstanding safety record, for which PWU

members can take a substantial portion of the credit, the PWU will never become complacent because we cannot afford to. Our members' training and the PWU's very culture as a union ensures that safety is now and always will be our paramount concern because PWU members often work their entire careers in these stations. Nuclear generation is greenhouse gas emission-free and currently produces about 60 percent of Ontario's electricity.

As the representatives of the people who work in these facilities and who typically live nearby, the PWU has emphasized the decades of exemplary safety regulation, standards, engineering and performance in Ontario's nuclear generating stations. It is important for the public to understand that the level of confidence from front line workers is very high and that these facilities are operated safely and with great care for the environment and surrounding communities.

The CNSC has already held one day of hearings for the Bruce Power licences and two more are scheduled for mid-April. At that time Sector 1 Vice President, Bob Walker, will lead the PWU delegation, which will consist of PWU Staff and Chief Stewards. The CNSC looks to the PWU to provide the much-needed perspective of the workers in the industry.

CNSC public hearings are by their nature open for the public to attend and they are live streamed over the Internet. All written submissions, including the PWU and CNWC submissions, are available on the CNSC website.

Sale of Haldimand County Hydro to Hydro One Approved



In mid-March, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) approved the sale of Haldimand County Hydro (HCH), a local distribution company, to Hydro One. The \$75 million deal was first announced in June 2014 and it will see approximately 30 workers join the Power Workers' Union (PWU).

Hydro One has 18 months to complete the transfer of HCH's assets and to implement the transition of the workers to the PWU.

Headquartered in Caledonia, HCH services more than 21,000 customers stretching across an area of 1,252 square km with more than 1,665 km of distribution line length.

Employees at Westario Power Choose the PWU

The 23 inside and outside employees of Westario Power have voted unanimously to join the PWU. Westario Power is a Local Distribution Company serving approximately 21,000 customers in the communities of Clifford, Elmwood, Hanover, Kincardine, Lucknow, Mildmay, Neustadt, Palmerston, Port Elgin, Ripley, Southampton, Teeswater, Walkerton, and Wingham.

Westario is owned by the communities it serves along with Fortis Ontario which acquired a 10 percent interest in the company in the year 2000.



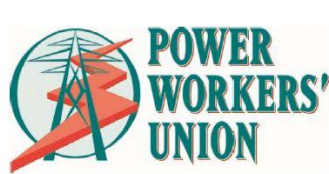
Westario employees are a perfect fit with the PWU. Their current collective agreement expires on May 1, 2015 and PWU Sector 3 is already making arrangements to assist our new members in negotiating a renewal agreement.

The PWU has a strong membership presence in the communities served by Westario Power. Let's all give our newest members a warm welcome!

Shuttered Mills to be Converted to Wood Pellet Production

In late March, the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, Michael Gravelle, announced that the provincial government would be providing a \$4 million grant to Rentech Inc. to convert two shut down particleboard mills, in Atikokan and Wawa, to produce wood pellets to fuel biomass power plants in the region and internationally. Rentech will sell the pellets from the Atikokan mill to Ontario Power Generation for use at the recently reopened Atikokan Generating Station. The funds will come from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and are expected to result in the creation of 60 new jobs in northwestern Ontario.





Charity 2015 Golf Tournament

JUNE 4, 2015 | NOTTAWASAGA INN

It is with great pleasure that the Power Workers' Union announces its 2015 Charity Golf Charity
Tournament

Thursday, June 4, 2015
Nottawasaga Inn Resort
6015 Highway 89, Alliston

All money raised will be donated to the Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital, the
Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Rain or shine, tournament will begin at 12 pm Shotgun start, scramble format.

\$120 per person includes golf, cart, BBQ lunch and a buffet steak dinner.

**To register, please send the completed registration form for yourself and/or your foursome
no later than May 22, 2015. Include any dietary requirements. Questions - please email
Dee at rkaur@pwu.ca.**

Spots Fill Up Quickly - Send In Your Foursome Soon!

Provincial Health, Safety and Environment Committee



Pictured from left to right:
Glenn Dawson, Sector 3 Representative
Tom Nicholls, Staff Officer
Dave Trumble, Staff Officer
Bob Walker, Chair, Sector 1 Representative
Larry Decorte, Sector 2 Representative