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Pickering operating safely: OPG

Nuclear regulator holds hearing in Ajax

By Keith Gilligan
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DURHAM — Although the four 'B' side reactors at the Pickering nuclear station are aging, Ontario Power Generation says the units are operating in a safe and efficient way.

OPG officials made the comments during the second day of relicensing hearings for the facility.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission held the hearing at the Ajax Convention Centre on Wednesday, drawing about 200 people.

The operating licence for the 'B' side expires on June 30 and OPG is seeking a five-year renewal.

The 'B' reactors have been operating for about 25 years.

OPG officials said the plant operates safely and efficiently now and will continue to do so over the next five years.

"B" now performs better than at the beginning of the licence period and will continue to do so," said Pierre Tremblay, senior site vice-president.

The first hearing date was on Feb. 20 in Ottawa and was primarily OPG and CNSC staff presenting to the commission members. The second hearing was a chance for those who support the granting of the five-year licence renewal or oppose it.

"A regulator wouldn't permit this station to be built where it is and wouldn't allow this design to be used," said Shawn-Patrick Stensil of Greenpeace.

"Greenpeace asks the CNSC to keep OPG on a shorter leash," he said.

The age of the Pickering station means it's "in the most dangerous state of operation and requires greater oversight," Mr. Stensil said, calling for a two-year operating licence.

See Greenpeace, Page 2

ENJOYING HIS HANDIWORK...AND HIS LOLLIPOP



AJ Groen/ News Advertiser photo

AJAX — Jake Forster doesn't let hand printing get in the way of enjoying his sucker. He was taking part in Sing Out Summer Fun, which was held indoors because of rain. This was the first of five Kids in the Square events this summer. For more information visit townofajax.com. Whitby Holiday Inn employees ran the Child Find booth.

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