



## Énergie NB Power

September 24, 2012

### Point Lepreau Generating Station Update

#### Commissioning activities progressing well for fall 2012 return to service

Last week, staff at the Point Lepreau Generating Station conducted tests of the turbines and generator at 14% of full power. For the first time since the refurbishment project began, the turbines and generator rotated due to steam entering the turbines. Commissioning and testing activities are intended to verify that equipment that was modified and upgraded during the refurbishment outage is operating correctly.

The reactor is currently in Guaranteed Shutdown State (GSS) for a planned shutdown to remove specialized equipment used to start up reactors with new fuel as part of the testing and commissioning process. During this shutdown, any maintenance that arose during the turbine run up and testing activities will also be completed before restarting the reactor to continue the commissioning process.

During the planned shutdown, some transformer maintenance is required that was identified during turbine/generator testing. An internal inspection has identified a loose connection on a bushing on the transformer. The Point Lepreau team continues its review of the equipment to complete the repair strategy.

After the transformer repairs are complete and the reactor restarted, generator testing will be completed. This is the reason for thorough commissioning tests – to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the unit post-refurbishment.

“Nuclear reactors are complex systems, so testing and commissioning our equipment are essential steps in returning the unit to service,” said Paul Pasquet, Site Vice President of NB Power Nuclear. “Once we complete the planned maintenance shutdown, we will be in the final stages of returning Point Lepreau to commercial operation.”

Once the planned shutdown is complete, the reactor will be restarted and power increased to 35% of full power. This is when the Station will first be synchronized to the New Brunswick electrical grid. However, the Station will not be declared commercially operational until the remaining commissioning activities are carried out and the reactor operates at higher power.

NB Power requires one further approval from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) prior to increasing reactor power above 35%. The CNSC will continue to provide oversight in the form of on-site inspections and technical reviews of the remaining testing and commissioning activities.

There will be a number of incremental reactor power increases between 35% and the start of commercial operation. A number of commissioning tests will also be executed during this period.

NB Power remains on track to restart the Station and start generating electricity in the fall of 2012. The Station will deliver safe and reliable power to New Brunswick for the next 25 to 30 years. Once restarted, the 660 megawatt Station will produce enough electricity to power more than 333,000 homes per year.

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