

INSC Country Report

Country: Canada

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1. Political situation in nuclear in your country

In November 2015 there was a national election resulting in a new governing party and new Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. That government has already changed the focus of the national government with considerable emphasis on "climate change".

One specific consequence has been the deferment of a decision on a proposed Deep Geologic Repository for low and intermediate radioactive waste planned to be located on the same site as the eight-unit Bruce Power plant.

2. News on nuclear facilities (NPP's, WSF's etc.) in your country (power upgrades, lifetime extensions, new build etc.)

The province of Ontario approved a long-term agreement with Bruce Power, a private corporation which operates eight nuclear power units of CANDU design, each producing about 900 MW. Bruce Power plans to refurbish all of its units over the next decade

The Ontario government also approved the first stage of the refurbishment of the Darlington NPP which is operated by the provincially-owned Ontario Power Generation corporation. Darlington has four units, also of CANDU design, each of about 900 MW. In addition, the operation of the Pickering Nuclear Plant has been extended.

3. News on companies (projects, financial results, production etc)

The federal government completed its planned re-organization of the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratory. It chose to go to the Government Owned Contractor Operated (GoCo) arrangement. The government company, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, still owns the laboratory but the operation has been turned over to a company formed from five private firms and has been renamed as the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

4. Public opinion towards nuclear (results latest PO polls)

There have been no public opinion polls regarding nuclear power or nuclear energy in general. The approvals of the Bruce Power and OPG plans has been generally accepted

However, a proposed Deep Geologic Repository for low and intermediate radioactive waste planned to be built on the Bruce Power site has provoked considerable negative reaction. The Bruce site is on the shore of Lake Huron which is one of the 'Great Lakes separating Canada from the USA. Much of that negative reaction came from politicians of the USA state of Michigan which is on the other side of Lake Huron.

5. Stakeholder dialogue (Attitudes of NGOs, media, local communities towards nuclear)

Overall, the news media has been relatively quiet about the plans for the Bruce Power and Darlington refurbishment plans