

WINTER 2019

From THE Point

STATION NEWS
FOR THE COMMUNITY

At the Ready

Point Lepreau staff, government and community prove their readiness during a two-day exercise

A Time to Give Thanks: Point Lepreau's Success is a Reflection of Many Community Partners

Message from Vice President Nuclear & Chief Nuclear Officer, Brett Plummer



Énergie NB Power

AT YOUR SERVICE

POINT LEPREAU NUCLEAR RESPONSE TEAM CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SERVING THE STATION AND THE COMMUNITY



Dilan Jones - Nuclear Security Officer, Matt Nicolle - Security Sergeant, Chris Fields - Manager, Safety, Security & Emergency Response

If you live in the area of the Point Lepreau community, you are likely familiar with the nuclear Station's Nuclear Response Team (NRT), the highly skilled on-site tactical squad tasked with the security of the Station.

In the 15 years since it was first formed to provide an in-house security service capable of responding to all levels of threat, the team has become part of the Station's fabric. They have also become familiar faces in the community from their presence at events ranging from marigold plantings to school visits, and engagement with the fishing community at the pier.

"This community outreach is an important aspect of the job for the NRT," says Chris Fields, Manager of Safety, Security and Emergency Response.

"The members of the NRT take their jobs very seriously and have been able to demonstrate through regular testing and evaluation that we are prepared to protect the Station, our employees, and the public," he says. "Strengthening our relationship with employees and the community has made us even better. For example, we think of the fishermen as our eyes and ears on the water."

When a tactical presence was first formed in response to the terrorist attack in the United States on September 11, 2001, the Station initially relied on external expertise to provide training and resources. That allowed the Station to ramp up to meet the new security requirements identified by the Canadian nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. NB Power then, methodically, developed an in-house capability that allowed the team to hire in the needed skills and build capacity from within.

“Our team is comprised of many members who have diverse backgrounds including military, law enforcement, private security, corrections, Sherriff’s department, customs and border services, and other related experience,” he says. “Our teams are amongst some of the best trained and most professional in the country. And, we understand we are part of the community we serve. We reflect those values in our work.”

In part, the team’s strength came from development of a top-notch training program. Subject-matter experts are embedded in the NRT squads to train members on specific skills including firearms, use of force, tactics, security screening & Central Alarm Station operations in ongoing training. That is strengthened further by partnerships with other outside agencies and peers.

“Our team has a good working relationship with the law enforcement agencies, the local community, our intel network, other nuclear facilities, and especially with the employees, contractors, and guests,” says Fields.

“We are very proud of our team and we understand our responsibility to the Station, the employees, and the local community...”

- Chris Fields, Manager of Safety, Security and Emergency Response

STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

In addition to bringing the proper skills and training to PLNGS, NB Power has also invested in specialty equipment with the most up-to-date protection and surveillance tools to effectively defend the Station.

Recently, two new Blackwolf light armoured vehicles (see photo) have been added to the patrol route. The vehicles ensure that even in the most challenging circumstances around the Station, the officers would remain safe and able to respond.

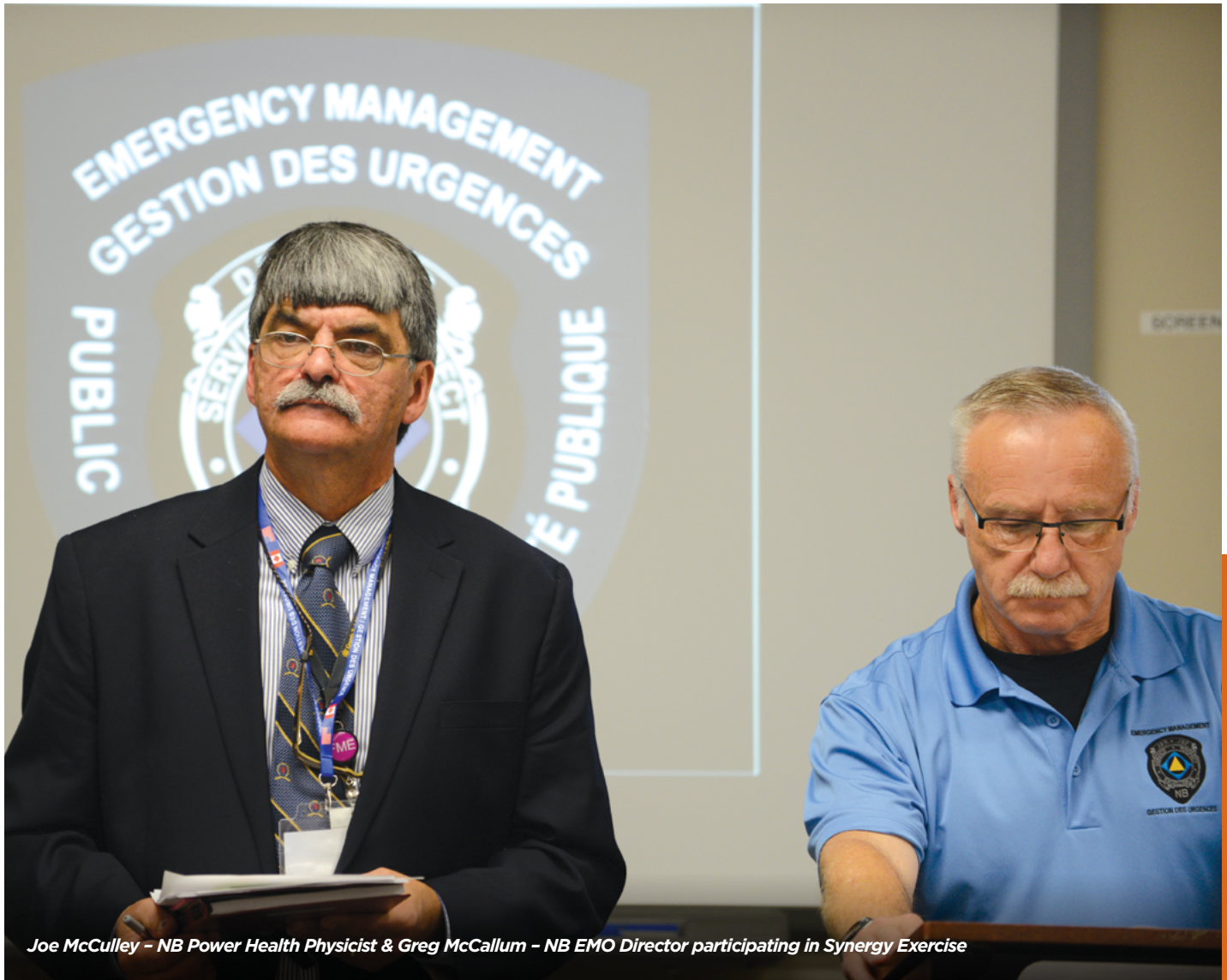
While they are rugged tactical response vehicles, they are gentle on the environment. These vehicles can be manned and operated for up to 10 hours, completely on the battery system alone. This means less exhaust emissions and a significant reduction in fuel charges.

“We are very proud of our team and we understand our responsibility to the Station, the employees, and the local community,” says Fields. “In our own way, we are contributing to safe, clean electricity for the people of New Brunswick.”



AT THE READY

POINT LEPREAU STAFF, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY
PROVE THEIR READINESS DURING TWO-DAY EXERCISE



Joe McCulley – NB Power Health Physicist & Greg McCallum – NB EMO Director participating in Synergy Exercise

Working in or with the nuclear industry provides a unique opportunity to learn life skills that can be applied both in the industry and outside of it. With a strong industry focus on safety, this includes emergency preparedness training that can be used in the highly unlikely event of a nuclear emergency but also in many other scenarios.

In early October, the readiness of New Brunswick to respond to a major disaster was tested once

again during a full-scale, two-day, multi-jurisdictional nuclear exercise.

The simulation, called Synergy Challenge 2018, tested the preparedness, recovery capabilities and decision-making of NB Power and the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization (NBEMO) in the highly unlikely event of an emergency at the Station near Saint John.

The drill was the first of its kind that focused on both nuclear emergency response and recovery operations at a Canadian nuclear power plant.

The exercise was supported by regional, provincial and federal institutions. Approximately 1,000 people representing more than 35 agencies and organizations participated in the exercise. The scenario tested Station staff, first responders and municipalities as well as government agencies.

The national nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), requires a full-scale emergency response exercise every three years to test the province's ability to respond to a major nuclear plant crisis. The recent exercise allowed the CNSC to test response plans and collaboration efforts.

The mock scenario took place at Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station, NBEMO's emergency operations centre in Fredericton and regional emergency operations centres in Saint John and St. Stephen.

The exercise incorporated knowledge gained from Exercise Intrepid, N.B.'s last full-scale nuclear emergency exercise in 2015, and operating experience from other nuclear power plant exercises as well as lessons learned from recent weather-related emergency recovery efforts in New Brunswick.

“ Synergy Challenge 2018 provided the opportunity to validate existing emergency plans and procedures... ”

- Brett Plummer, Point Lepreau's Vice President Nuclear & Chief Nuclear Officer

“This is a benefit of collaborative exercises,” says Brett Plummer, Point Lepreau's Vice President Nuclear & Chief Nuclear Officer. “We learn from other circumstances like the weather event and, in turn, people participating can take what they learn here and apply it to other scenarios. It just provides an added level of preparedness for the province overall.”

This drill took the scenario a step further than past drills. A full day was spent on recovery, the last stage of emergency management and the phase to return to normal. Previous nuclear power plant emergency exercises have been response-focused.

FAST FACTS

- **The provincial New Brunswick Emergency Measures Office has procedures and a detailed plan on how to handle a nuclear emergency. These are reviewed annually and validated with a full-scale exercise every three years.**
- **The probability of a radiation emergency at Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station is very low, but the Station conducts regular training, drills and plans for emergencies.**
- **The results of Synergy Challenge 2018 will be reviewed to identify good practices and suggest any ways to improve the current emergency response and recovery procedures.**

“Synergy Challenge 2018 provided the opportunity to validate existing emergency plans and procedures, demonstrate improvements made in technological and communication capabilities, and implement nuclear response and recovery strategies here at the Station and at the municipal, provincial and federal levels,” said Plummer.

Recovery was deemed an important part of the exercise because it represents the fourth pillar of the emergency management process.



A WELL-OILED MACHINE

TEAMWORK ACROSS MANY TRADES AND SKILLS
KEEPS THE POINT LEPREAU STATION HUMMING



Ironworkers Maurice Doucette & Tony McSorley and Labourer Jim Fullerton from Sunny Corner Enterprises

Whether it's a boat, a house or a car, longevity and performance depend on a well-timed and consistent maintenance routine. A nuclear station is no different.

At the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS), maintenance is planned, completed and tracked all year long with more intense periods of maintenance done during specific times when the Station is shut down. That's when approximately 550 extra sets of hands are brought on board to ensure

everything is in tip-top shape for the peak electricity seasons ahead.

In April 2019, tradespeople from more than a dozen different skill sets will converge on the Station, each with a well-defined action list to complete the Station's fine tuning.

"Plant condition is a key element to preserve and sustain the Station for its entire lifetime," says Joel Armstrong, Maintenance Director. "For a Station to achieve

top performance, the equipment and the Station need to be in top condition as well."

Joel says the benefits of a well-cared-for Station go beyond the safety and reliability that are achieved. As well, he says, when the Station is cared for, people feel good to come to work and fulfill their role in Station operation.

"It gives you a feeling of ownership," he says. "When you walk into a well-functioning

Station with good housekeeping and you are part of making that happen, it inspires you to do your best work.”

In the past few years, the Station has invested heavily in maintenance training, processes and activities. This has allowed the Station to set higher performance targets for reliability and production. The Station staff have worked with industry counterparts, other CANDU Station operators, to collaboratively find innovations in maintenance approaches and processes.

“The investment is well worth it,” says Joel. “The better condition we keep the Station in, the better it ages. The longer and better the Station runs, the more value the people of New Brunswick get from it and the lower the cost of each unit of electricity that comes from it.”

With up to 60 percent of all electricity used in New Brunswick on a given day coming from PLNGS—with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions—the effort to achieve maintenance performance excellence is an important investment in the province’s future.

The trades that keep PLNGS in top condition

In addition to everyday maintenance at PLNGS, the Station halts operating on planned intervals for an outage, a time when electricity production stops so the equipment can be disassembled, cleaned, repaired and, where necessary, parts replaced.

“Workers from across New Brunswick and other parts of the country come to help with this

“You never lose that culture. From my own experience, the additional safety awareness I’ve received at this site is something I take home even when working around the house.”

- Percy Urquhart, Project Manager,
Sunny Corner Enterprises

effort. Many come with a specific trade and/or skillset. Workers need two sets of skills: the ones they bring to the job and the other is the knowledge and understanding of working safely and effectively in a nuclear environment. To ensure they have the latter, Point Lepreau and Sunny Corner Enterprises Inc. provide a comprehensive training program for both staff and trades. Not only does the training help them while they are on site, the training and the culture that comes from it are something they can take with them to other jobs,” says Percy Urquhart, Project Manager, Sunny Corner Enterprises.

“Some trades have worked here before and some have not. When new workers come on site, we know they will be given the training and information they need to stay safe and productive on the job. And, once they have that, it’s something that stays with them all the time,” says Percy. “You never lose that culture. From my own experience, the additional safety awareness I’ve received at this site is something I take home even when working around the house.”

The tradespeople who work during the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station outage include:

- Boilermakers
- Plumbers
- Pipefitters
- Labourers
- Carpenters
- Painters
- Insulators
- Scaffolders
- Millwrights
- Ironworkers
- Operating Engineers
- Electricians
- Masons
- Sheetmetal Workers

GIVING THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

A MESSAGE FROM BRETT PLUMMER



Brett Plummer, Vice President Nuclear & Chief Nuclear Officer

In November, some of the Point Lepreau team members had the opportunity to go down to the harbour to see the lobster fishers before they set off on their first day of the season.

As a trapper myself, I appreciate the excitement and logistical preparation that goes into the day. For the Point Lepreau team, it was a chance for us to say thanks to the fishing community and wish them a safe and bountiful season.

These men and women play a valuable role for the Station. In fact, we like to say they are our “eyes on the water.” While going about their work, they remain vigilant to anything out of the ordinary that might impact on the Station or its operations, and they report back to us.

We feel fortunate at Point Lepreau to have many community and First Nations partners who work with us and who contribute to our performance in many areas. This includes businesses who work to keep day-to-day life at the Station humming along.

They are the people who provide catering for meals and plow and clean our property to ensure it remains accessible and safe to our nuclear operators even in the worst weather conditions. They are our suppliers of everything, from office supplies and equipment, to the specially qualified nuclear components we use in the Plant.

The municipal fire departments, including our nearest volunteer fire department in Musquash and the Saint John Fire Department, as well as many other emergency responders, government and social agencies practice and drill with us on a regular basis to ensure that in the unlikely event of an emergency, everyone knows how to respond quickly and effectively.

The strong collaboration between the Station and the Musquash Fire Department has also earned the initiative recognition from the World Association of Nuclear Operators.

This year, the Warden Service, a dedicated group of volunteers who help us engage the public in emergency preparedness, received an award for exemplary service from Public Safety Canada and the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management.

Members of the First Nations communities of both Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey have been working with NB Power,

including participating in the environment monitoring program, which helps ensure that the delicate balance of nature is carefully maintained.

The Point Lepreau Community Relations Liaison Committee members give their time voluntarily to provide their insights to help us understand the needs of the community surrounding the Station. Our First Nation partners teach us about environmental stewardship and how to care for the land. Point Lepreau's labour partners ensure we have the right people with the skills needed to maintain our Plant to the highest standards.

And, of course, there are the residents surrounding our Plant, who are kind and courteous neighbours and who invite our employees to be part of this vibrant community.

To all of you, we say thank you. And, we have much to be thankful for. From our families to yours, we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.

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