



**Énergie NB Power**

Groupe Group

## Press Release

May 30, 2008

### **New Brunswick Makes History by Realizing an Industry First**

**Fredericton** – NB Power Nuclear Corporation has successfully completed the first stage of the Point Lepreau Generating Station Refurbishment Project. During this first stage, NB Power defueled the full reactor core, a world first in the CANDU-6 industry. Today, NB Power turned over the fueling machine vaults to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) to allow AECL to begin refurbishment's second stage.

“This is a major accomplishment for NB Power. Completing this first critical stage in our refurbishment project safely, on time and on budget goes a long way in ensuring that New Brunswickers will have access to a safe, reliable source of energy for many years to come,” says David Hay, NB Power President & CEO.

Since the March 28, 2008 shutdown, the team has been focused on defueling the reactor core by removing all 4,560 fuel bundles from the 380 channels. The team then drained the heavy water from the heat transport system before turning it over to AECL today. In addition, boiler cleaning, removal of eight large air coolers and other related jobs were performed.

“We are grateful to everyone at the Point Lepreau Generating Station, the entire NB Power team, our multiple contracting partners and all the building trades for working so safely and diligently to meet this key milestone,” says Gaëtan Thomas, Vice President NB Power Nuclear. “Our success is due to outstanding teamwork and performance in completing these critical job activities.”

The Point Lepreau Generating Station refurbishment outage is a three-staged project that will be carried over 18-months. The first stage was station shutdown and defueling of the reactor core and turnover preparation. The second stage, which will be led by our major partner AECL, will be the execution of the outage including retubing the reactor and refurbishing and upgrading other key components and systems. During the third stage, NB Power and AECL will work together to commission the Station and return it to service by September 30, 2009.

On behalf of the people of New Brunswick, NB Power is proud to be the world's first nuclear operator to undertake a CANDU-6 reactor refurbishment.

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Media Contact: Heather-Anne MacLean, Manager Media Relations 506-458-6618