Pickering Radiation Protection Team
John S. Hewitt Team Achievement Award

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In 2019 the OPG Pickering Radiation Protection (RP) team developed a unique indicator that measures RP human performance, targeting the station's performance in radiation protection at the individual department level. OPG's stations utilize the industry standard set of RP indicators measured at the station level; however, when there are gaps to excellence it is more challenging to decipher which departments require support in order to improve RP human performance.

To solve this problem, the Pickering RP team developed the RP Excellence Index (RPEI). This innovative tool, based on nine individual RP human performance metrics, enables the various departments at the station to assess their respective performance and create action plans that are targeted to drive excellence. Furthermore, every department is rated with the same methodology, making it easy to compare performance.

The Pickering RP team has shared this indicator with other CANDU plants through the CANDU Owners Group (COG), and was invited by INPO to share it with the US nuclear industry. Currently the RPEI is being implemented across OPG's nuclear fleet, and is being piloted at Bruce Power.

The implementation of the RPEI has had a positive impact: radiation protection performance at Pickering and Darlington has improved with the implementation of this innovative new metric, particularly with the targeted initiatives to address specific gap areas. Overall, the RPEI has provided increased granularity to identify department focus areas, and optimized the strategic deployment of initiatives to continually improve performance at the sites.