

## Environmental Considerations

AECL and NRC are committed to operate facilities so as to protect and to minimize the impact on the environment. Protection of the environment means protection against adverse changes to public health and safety and the socio-economic environment. The environmental assessment of proposed projects provides a systematic approach for identifying potential adverse environmental effects before they occur. The activities in the various stages in the life of the facility, including site investigation and preparation, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning, will be examined for their potential for significant adverse environmental effects. Appropriate mitigation measures will be taken into account.

Public participation is an important element of an open and balanced environmental assessment process. A public communication plan will be implemented to ensure that public feedback is obtained and concerns addressed where needed. The environmental assessment will meet the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). A Comprehensive Study will be carried out and an Environmental Impact Statement prepared for submission. On acceptance, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will recommend that the Minister of the Environment approve project start.



*AECL and NRC have a strong commitment to operate facilities so as to protect and minimize the impact on the environment.*