

GOVERNMENT



OF CANADA

REFERENCE PAPERS

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 78

ATOMIC ENERGY IN CANADA

Canada's atomic energy establishment, popularly known as "Chalk River", is operated by the government-owned company Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. It is located in Ontario on the Ottawa River five miles from the village of Chalk River, about 130 miles from the city of Ottawa. A.E.C.L., which was formed in 1952 to take over the operation of the establishment from the National Research Council, has a seven-man Board of Directors that includes representatives of private industry, public and private power companies, and the universities. The company is engaged in four main activities:

1. development of economic atomic power
2. fundamental research
3. operation of nuclear reactors and separation of nuclear fuels (plutonium and uranium-233)
4. production of radioactive isotopes and associated equipment such as therapy units for cancer treatment.

It is estimated that government expenditure on atomic energy in Canada over the next five years will total \$124,000,000. This will include mainly such items as fundamental research, the completion of the construction of the new NRU research and plutonium production reactor, the construction of an experimental atomic power station, and a preliminary design study, with associated development programs, for a 100,000 kilowatt (electric) power station. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited now has 1,900 employees, and a fairly large number of engineers and scientists employed by universities, publicly and privately owned power companies, and manufacturing firms are also working on various aspects of atomic energy development.

NUCLEAR POWER DEMONSTRATION

Detailed design has just begun on Canada's first atomic power station, known as the Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD), which is expected to go into operation in 1958. The station will be located at the hydro-electric power station of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, near the village of Des Joachims on the Ottawa River, about 150 miles west northwest of Ottawa and 20 miles from Chalk River.