

**DNGS Community Advisory Council
and
PNGS Community Advisory Council
Joint Virtual Meeting
Minutes, Tuesday, October 19, 2021
Highlights**

Site Updates

Steve Gregoris presented an update about Pickering Nuclear, talking about the operating status of the six active reactors and a site review by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). Steve also presented an update about Darlington Nuclear, reviewing the operating status of Units 1, 2, and 4 as well as excellent progress in the refurbishment of Unit 3.

Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP)

Robin Manley presented a DNNP update, reviewing key milestones of the project to date, development of plans for construction of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) on the site, OPG's commitment to public engagement, and next steps. Council members asked questions about engagement of local Indigenous communities, OPG's leadership in nuclear technology selection, and other issues.

DNNP Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP)

Solly Solaiman talked about the EMPP and shared some mitigation measures that OPG is planning for dust management and for noise management. Council members were given the opportunity to comment.

Community Update Pickering Nuclear

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on Pickering Nuclear's involvement in community activities. The Durham Children's Water Festival, an information sharing session with the Curve Lake First Nation and the one-year anniversary of the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability were among the items mentioned.

Community Update Darlington Nuclear

Lindsay Hamilton presented an update on Darlington Nuclear's involvement in community activities. OPG's annual Take Our Kids to Work Day, OPG's launch of a Youth Engagement Campaign and a name change for the Nuclear Waste Management Division were among the items mentioned.

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Darlington CAC:

Jim Boate
Sheila Hall
Janice Jones
Mary Novak
Penny Smith

Regrets:

Shirley Crago
Jim Cryderman
Mary Ann Found
Brenda Metcalf

Pickering CAC:

Frank Dempsey
Mary Gawan
Bill Houston
Greg Lymer
Tracy MacCharles
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
John Miseresky
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Helen Shamsipour
Dan Shire
John Simpson
John Stirrat

Regrets:

Jill Adams
John Earley
Donna Fabbro
Tim Kellar
Zachary Moshonas

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Steve Gregoris
Lindsay Hamilton
Jesara Holla
Le Tho Dien
Sarah Malcolm
Robin Manley
Solly Solaiman

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Senior Vice President Steve Gregoris noted that COVID-19 protocols are still in place at OPG sites, including such protocols as screening for the virus, social distancing, masks, plexiglass barriers and testing. OPG encourages staff to get vaccinated. Over 80 percent of OPG employees have disclosed their vaccination status. The goal is for all staff to be vaccinated, with some exceptions, for example, medical reasons.

OPG has made a decision to focus testing on those more likely to have COVID, in particular the unvaccinated.

Steve responded to a Council question:

- *How does OPG manage COVID risks among contractors?*
Contract workers are subject to the same protocols as employees.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The Pickering CAC Minutes from Sept. 21, 2021 were approved without changes.

The Darlington CAC Minutes from Sept. 28, 2021 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Updates

Pickering Nuclear

In the absence of Jon Franke (who was involved with the WANO inspection of the site), Steve Gregoris presented the site update for Pickering Nuclear:

- Units 4, 6, and 8 are operating at full power. Unit 7 is in a planned maintenance outage, which is expected to be completed by early January.
- Unit 1 developed a problem with the system power control and is expected to be back on line on Friday.
- In Unit 5, there is an issue with the cooling system, the cause of which is still being explored. This unplanned outage will be a little lengthier, extending to the end of November or early December.
- This week and next, the site is undergoing a World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) peer review. A group of industry professionals from around the world is assessing how the station is performing against the best in the industry. The station will receive a full report in December.

Darlington Nuclear

Steve presented a site update for Darlington Nuclear:

- Units 1 and 2 are operating at full power.
- Unit 3 is in refurbishment, which is going well, 45 to 50 days ahead of schedule. In September, OPG began the first-of-a-kind evolution on Unit 3, with simultaneous Calandria Tube and Pressure Tube removal (CT-PT). This is the first time on a refurbishment anywhere in the world that a combined CT-PT removal has been done safely and successfully.
- Unit 4 is in a planned outage and is expected to be back on line by the third week of December.
- OPG has signed a Reconciliation Action Plan with Indigenous people, which involves working with the community, businesses and organizations.

Topic #4: Darlington New Nuclear Update

Robin Manley, Vice President New Nuclear Development, presented an update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) (Appendix 1).

Robin reviewed the key milestones of the Project from 2012, when OPG first received a Site Preparation Licence from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

through several further milestones to the renewal of the Site Preparation Licence in October 2021. The licence allows OPG to carry out activities to prepare the site for further construction. The Vision for new nuclear at Darlington is based on a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) with approximately 300 megawatts of output. The aspirational target is unit operation toward the end of the decade (2028).

Robin described the technology and advantages of SMRs and their key role in Ontario's Climate Change Plan. He also talked about the SMR technologies now under consideration for the Darlington Project.

Robin talked about OPG's commitment to community and stakeholder engagement, including Indigenous engagement.

Key next steps are: an OPG recommendation of a technology to the Board of Directors (November 2021); and a shareholder (Government of Ontario) decision on technology selection and project (expected December 2021). OPG will then work with a developer to further advance the design of the technology with a goal to build an SMR that provides safe, low-carbon, low-cost power for the people of Ontario. In parallel, OPG is preparing to submit, by the end of 2022, an application to the CNSC for a Licence to Construct.

Robin responded to Council questions and comments:

- *I like the Lego analogy you used in talking about SMRs. That's a very relatable analogy; it will resonate.*
- *The choice of SMR technology is critical, as the rest of Canada will ride on OPG's coattails in selecting their own technologies.*
- *In your land acknowledgment at the beginning of this evening's meeting, you mentioned that the DNNP and other OPG operations are on the traditional territory of peoples collectively known as the Williams Treaty First Nations. You also said that these First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands. What allows OPG to do what they do, if the responsibility for these lands is still with Indigenous people?*

OPG's recently issued Reconciliation Action Plan is a partial step to recognizing our responsibility to address Indigenous reconciliation. This is a complex problem not easily resolved. OPG is working with the First Nations with interests in the DNNP site, toward an equitable path forward that First Nations would be comfortable with. There is more work required. Carrie-Anne Atkins will make a copy of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) available to CAC members. (Carrie-Anne remarked that the December joint meeting would be an opportunity to further discuss this issue; a representative from OPG's Indigenous Relations group would provide an overview of the RAP). Link: [Media release > OPG releases first-ever Reconciliation Action Plan - OPG](#)

- *Congratulations to the DNNP and communications team for making us CAC members part of the Project.*
- *Are you looking at fuel recycling for new nuclear?*
We looked at fuel recycling as one of the criteria for new nuclear and have ongoing engagement with Moltex Canada, who are exploring this area. Our conclusion was that their technology is at a very early stage where there is no clear path to deployment in the 2020s. But we continue to work with them and have made a small investment in the WATSS (Waste To Stable Salt) recycling process that they are developing. They still have to design a fuel conversion process and a reactor that can use the recycled fuel.
- *CANDU is known as a Canadian technology. Will the SMR technology that OPG selects for the DNNP be recognized as a Canadian product?*
That's an extremely important issue. At the beginning of 2019, 150 reactor designs were being studied around the world. That is far too many and not an efficient use of R&D resources. We can safely say that the Western world is looking at OPG with interest. We are involved in discussions with parties in other countries, in the USA and in other provinces. We are very mindful of the benefits of the export market, but we are pushing for as much of the technology as possible to be developed and manufactured here.
- *As the leader in choosing new nuclear, OPG will potentially influence the future direction of nuclear development around the world.*

Topic #5: DNNP Environmental Management and Protection Plan

Solly Solaiman, Section Manager Darlington New Nuclear Project, shared the dust and noise management plans for DNNP site preparation activities (Appendix 2).

These plans are part of an Environmental Management and Protection Plan (EMPP) that OPG is developing to address specific areas that site preparation activities may introduce.

Solly talked about some mitigation measures that OPG is planning for dust management and for noise management.

CAC members did not have any specific comments during the meeting, but were given the opportunity to email comments to Jesara Holla by Nov. 2, 2021.

CAC members requested an opportunity to review the additional Environmental Management reports when they are available.

Topic #6: Community Update Pickering Nuclear

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager Corporate Affairs, presented an update on Pickering Nuclear's involvement in community activities:

- OPG has been a long-time sponsor of the Durham Children's Water Festival, held virtually this year, one day a week for five weeks. The first day was delivered on Friday, Sept. 24. The goal of the Festival is to increase awareness of water issues of Grade 4 students in Durham Region.
- On Monday, Oct. 4, Steve Gregoris, Carrie-Anne Atkins and other OPG representatives met with members of the Curve Lake First Nation to talk about development at the Pickering and Darlington stations. One of the highlights of the meeting was the importance of OPG being mindful of the Indigenous view of "long-term." Indigenous people think in terms of "seven generations."
- A similar information sharing session is planned for Six Nations on Tuesday, Oct. 26. Carrie-Anne will report back on this session during the planned Dec. 7 Joint CAC meeting.
- OPG is renewing its \$5-million funding of Durham College and Ontario Tech University. Link: [Media release > OPG renews support for Durham College, Ontario Tech - OPG](#)
- One year ago, OPG launched the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS). To celebrate, with the help of their partners, the CCNS have put together four virtual events open to the public, taking place the week of October 18.

Topic #7: Community Update Darlington Nuclear

Lindsay Hamilton, Manager Stakeholder Relations, presented an update on Darlington Nuclear's involvement in community activities:

- Region of Durham nuclear public alerting tests will take place on October 18 and 19.
- The next edition of Neighbours Newsletter will arrive in mailboxes some time in November. Over 200,000 copies of this quarterly are distributed.
- On Nov. 3, OPG will invite employees with students in Grade 9 to participate in its annual Take Our Kids to Work Day, a virtual event due to COVID-19.

- On Sept. 23, an OPG Nuclear presentation was broadcast via the Durham District School Board to 82 classrooms across the region. The topic was the opportunities represented by science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). OPG representatives answered questions ranging from career advice to the future of nuclear energy in Canada.
- OPG has launched a Youth Engagement Campaign aimed at empowering and engaging the next generation in meeting the challenge of climate change, with nuclear as part of the solution. OPG has introduced a new spokesperson, an animated uranium pellet named Pelly, the friendly face of nuclear energy for a new generation on social media. There is also an educational website, www.nuclearpelly.ca.
- Over the next few weeks, OPG's Nuclear Waste Management Division is undergoing a name change to **Nuclear Sustainability Services**. The new name reflects the division's good stewardship of nuclear materials. A member of the Nuclear Sustainability Services team will provide an update in April 2022.

Lindsay responded to a Council question:

- *Were the high school students that OPG broadcast to generally supportive of nuclear energy?*
The students raised really important questions about nuclear energy, and they were interested in learning more. They were very interested in career opportunities.

Dave Hardy asked if there were questions or comments about any topic.

Jesara Holla responded to a question about drilling in the lake bottom near Darlington:

- *I recently saw a newspaper ad from Transport Canada headlined Canadian Navigable Waters Act. It was about OPG applying to do geotechnical drilling at the lake bottom near the Darlington site. Can you give us some background information?*
As part of a geotechnical study being done on the Darlington New Nuclear Site to assess the site, geotechnical drilling is required in a portion of Lake Ontario. As part of the permitting process for that work, an advertisement must be taken out through the Ministry of Transportation. That advertisement was in the Clarington This Week paper in October (see Appendix 3). Comments on the public notice can be sent via the information contained in the ad.

Topic #8: Concluding Remarks

Steve Gregoris thanked CAC members for their participation this evening and expressed appreciation for their excellent questions and for the really good turnout.

Earlier in the meeting, Steve had talked about the anticipatory steps that staff take in preparing for work assignments. He compared it to the preparations for winter that people make with their automobiles and around the house. With that in mind, he encouraged Council members to prepare for dealing safely with the coming colder weather.

Dave Hardy mentioned he had read Council member Peter Ottensmeyer's book, *Neutrons at the Core*, which was described in a recent email to CAC members. Dave remarked that the book is a fairly technical but fascinating read about the future of nuclear energy in Canada and around the world. Details at:

https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=neutrons+at+the+core&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

Topic #9: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 4.

Next Meeting (Virtual)

Joint Meeting of DNGS and PNGS Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm