

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Minutes, April 21, 2020
Highlights**

Site Update

Mark Knutson, newly appointed Senior Vice President for Pickering Nuclear, presented an update on station safety and productivity performance. He also talked in some detail about steps taken at the site in response to the COVID-19 challenge and about OPG/Pickering's contribution to addressing this challenge in the community. CAC members expressed appreciation to OPG staff for that contribution and for continuing to provide safe and reliable energy to Ontario.

Public and Community Affairs

Anaïese St. Aubin talked about OPG's activities in the community, which have had to be redefined in the face of the COVID-19 challenge. She reviewed OPG contributions to community efforts to deal with the pandemic as well as Pickering Nuclear employee initiatives. She also talked about the station's Bring Back the Salmon educational program, the Pickering and Darlington stations receiving a Gold Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) Conservation Certificate, and other items.

Concluding Comments

Mark Knutson expressed appreciation for the CAC's helping OPG to engage with the community.

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
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Minutes, April 21, 2020**

Pickering CAC:

Donna Fabbro
Natalie Harder
Greg Lymer
Tracy MacCharles
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
John Miseresky
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Cameron Richardson
Dan Shire

Regrets:

Frank Dempsey
John Earley
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Julie Kim
Zachary Moshonas
Helen Shamsipour
John Stirrat

OPG:

Mark Knutson
Analiese St. Aubin

PDA:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Introduction

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy welcomed everyone to this meeting, a virtual session due to the temporary closure of OPG's Information Centre to the public, undertaken for the protection of employees and the public against the coronavirus. He introduced Mark Knutson, the new Senior Vice President for Pickering Nuclear.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The CAC minutes from Feb. 18, 2020 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Update

Senior Vice President Mark Knutson expressed his condolences to the CAC on the recent passing of John Vincett, who had facilitated the Council for 20 years.

Mark presented a site update:

- Units 4, 5, 6, and 7 are operating at full power. Unit 1 is in a planned outage until May 26. This outage will allow for life extension of the unit and includes inspection of the fuel channel and other components. A 30-day planned outage for Unit 8 had originally been scheduled for the summer but, at the request of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), this outage is occurring now, when there is less need for nuclear power due to lots of snow melt bringing extra power to OPG's hydroelectric plants. More nuclear power will be required in the summer, a time of high demand. The Unit 8 outage will be completed on May 4. The power ratio on the grid in Ontario is 60 percent nuclear and 35 percent hydroelectric.
- 2019 was Pickering's best year ever in terms of performance and reliability. The station's forced loss rate (unexpected outages) has been under 1 percent in 2020 to date.
- There have been no reportable injuries to date in 2020.
- Planned outages for Units 4 and 6 are forthcoming. These are part of OPG's general effort to ensure the station operates safely and reliably to the close of commercial operations.

COVID-19

Mark noted that the coronavirus means that it is not business as usual at Pickering Nuclear, but the station has been able to complete two planned outages and ensure reliable production of power. Steps taken by the station to reduce contacts:

- The normal workforce at the site is 2,000. Now about 700 employees are working on site while 1,300 are working from home. Most engineers are involved in design work, which can be carried out at home.
- On site employees maintain a physical distance of six feet from each other; if they must work closer, they are required to wear a mask. They are asked to try to limit close work.

- Stairways are now all one-way, so employees do not have to pass one another on the stairs.
- Meetings are virtual like this evening's CAC meeting.
- Unapproved visiting to the site has been eliminated; all visitors have to be approved by Mark before they can enter the site.
- Two employees, who had returned from travel, have tested positive for COVID-19. They did not enter the plant.
- The temperature of employees and anyone else looking to enter the site is checked. Anyone showing signs of fever is denied entry and referred to medical personnel for further assessment.
- Deep cleaning of doorknobs and other surface contact areas is done regularly.
- If individuals show signs of a respiratory problem, such as persistent coughing, they must leave the building for assessment.
- If employees experience symptoms or feel sick while at home, they are directed to stay home.
- On-line medical services are available to employees.
- The station operates a command centre for quick response to employees' questions or concerns.

Mark noted that the full staff is available for on- or off-site work as needed. Workforce morale is good; initial anxiety has been allayed. People are more frequently going to video for meetings rather than using just the audio component for meetings.

OPG Actions in the Community

Mark also talked about OPG's contributions to addressing COVID-19 in the community:

- Donations to Feed the Need in Durham (distributes food to food banks, shelters and soup kitchens in Durham Region), Feed Ontario (food box program) and Regional Food Distribution Association that provides food distribution to First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario
- A collaboration between X-lab and Ontario Tech to manufacture face shields for local hospitals and other locations using the X-lab's 3-D printers

- Donating personal protective equipment to hospitals and other medical facilities in Durham Region and across the Province: 17,500 Tyvek suits; 1 million surgical masks; 75,000 N95 masks
- X-Lab finding ways to manufacture masks using paper and other materials

Mark responded to Council questions and comments:

- *I am very happy about the fantastic effort that OPG is making to address the coronavirus pandemic. We Council members and the community as a whole are very appreciative.*
- *I second that comment.*

It was agreed that the CAC would compose a letter Mark thanking OPG and Pickering Nuclear for their generous and numerous initiatives to help the community deal with the coronavirus challenge.

The Q&A session with Mark continued:

- *I congratulate Mark on his appointment to Senior Vice President at PNGS.*
- *Can you say a word about Randy Lockwood's departure? The CAC really enjoyed interacting with Randy and respected his outstanding leadership of the site.*
Randy was a great leader for Pickering Nuclear. A lot of people here were sad to see him leave. Because his work was so good, I haven't had to change anything in taking over from him. There have been many accolades for Randy's work here. He is now on to other challenges.
- *At the February meeting, Randy mentioned that Unit 7 was taken off line to conduct some investigations and make repairs to the heat transport system. I understand that unit is now back on line. Is it operating at full power?*
Yes, it is. It was brought back on line one and a half weeks ahead of schedule.
- *Has the COVID-19 lockdown interrupted the station's supply lines?*
We've told certain suppliers that their products are essential, and we are still getting steady supplies from them. The border closing has held up some supplies from the U.S. Some projects are considered long-term, and supplies for them have been deemed non-critical.
- *Are you considering extending the life of Pickering Nuclear by starting a process to re-use the used nuclear fuel now stored on site?*

Such a process is clearly doable from a technical point of view, but how much work would be required is the issue. Continued operation of the current reactors is not feasible beyond the extra year required for a sequential shutdown of those units. The cost of building new reactors makes the process of re-using stored nuclear fuel very questionable.

- *Can you review OPG's input at the Canadian Nuclear Association convention February 25 to 28?*

As far as I know, that convention was cancelled.

Topic #4: Public and Community Affairs

Analiene St. Aubin, Manager of Corporate Relations and Communications at Pickering Nuclear, presented an update on OPG involvement in community affairs.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown in the province and OPG's own priorities to safeguard the health of its employees, OPG/Pickering has had to redefine its community activities. There are no programs currently running with Pickering Nuclear's community partners. The station is still working through what it is going to be able to do in support of the community at this difficult time. In the meantime, however, the station has undertaken a number of initiatives:

- Through the employee charity campaign, we have given donations to Joanne's House and Luke's House, and will be looking for more opportunities.
- Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in Cobourg has been one of the harder hit hospitals in our area. They received a number of community-made H600 Halyard cloth masks which they were happy with.
- The hospital has now donated enough H600 fabric to make over 9,000 masks. OPG is calling on employees to help. We are creating sewing kits for anyone who can help us make these masks and donate them back to the community. Kits will be distributed on April 23.

The station has also launched a page on its employee intranet site called Generating Kindness, to which there has been a great employee response. This page:

- Allows employees to give to various charities through payroll deductions.
- Gives information on local needs – Durham & Clarington, South Central Ontario, Toronto – so employees can find opportunities to give and get involved in their communities.

- Examples of opportunities being profiled in Durham include the CAREmongers group, local food drives, food box programs, meals on wheels and more.
- The page will also profile various things that employees are doing.

Other community related updates:

- At the end of February, both Pickering and Darlington stations received a Gold Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) Conservation Certificate. This is the second time the two stations are receiving this certification, which recognizes specific efforts of biodiversity programs and OPG's commitment to conservation.
- Take Pride in Pickering April 25, the city's tree planting day in which OPG is a supporting partner, has been cancelled.
- Durham Steps for Life Walk, which Pickering Nuclear was to host on May 3, will not take place in the usual way, but participants are invited to join a virtual walk at #MyWhyMyWay.
- OPG's biodiversity program includes the Bring Back the Salmon educational program, for which this year's school partner was Sir John A. MacDonald Public School. Interaction with the school was prevented by rotating teacher strikes and now cancellation of classes and temporary closure of the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre due to COVID-19. Salmon fry growing in Pickering Nuclear's hatchery will be released June 3 by an OPG community partner, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).
- OPG is looking at safe ways to maintain Tuesdays on the Trail programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual programs or bringing together smaller groups are among the approaches being considered.
- Many CAC members know Cheryl Johnston, who has been an invaluable member of OPG's communications team for many years. Cheryl is retiring in mid-May. Please forward any memories or stories that can be included in a send-off for Cheryl.

Anaiese responded to Council questions:

- *What is the distribution status of the Neighbours Newsletter?*
The spring issue of Neighbours was delivered in March. We are now working on the summer issue.
- *Have there been any OPG donations to retirement and nursing homes?*

Our donations have been through the Ontario Ministry of Health, so I can't say. Among other initiatives, we have made a million surgical masks available through the Ministry.

Topic #5: Comments on Virtual Meeting

Noting that the May 19 CAC meeting will also be virtual, Dave asked Council members how we could improve on Skype sessions.

Council comments:

- Consider GoToMeeting and other alternatives to Skype.
- Both Skype and GoToMeeting work well for slide presentations.
- Zoom is the best experience I've had with presentations.
- Unfortunately, there are security issues with Zoom.

Dave suggested a CAC training session for participating in virtual meetings, particularly with presentations.

Topic #6: Comments from Mark Knutson

Mark thanked Council members for their participation in this evening's meeting. He remarked that the CAC is an important vehicle for OPG to "engage with what the community thinks of us." He added that the CAC's input is important to OPG, and urged members to put forward their thoughts fully and candidly. "I'm not easily offended," he said.

Topic #7: CNSC News

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

**Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
Virtual Meeting 7 pm**

