

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Minutes, September 15, 2020
Highlights**

Site Update

Jon Franke presented a site update. He noted the excellent job of employees in following COVID-19 protocols and keeping everyone safe. Among other items were the operating status of the units and provincial support of a proposed shut down plan which would see some Pickering units operate into 2025.

Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability

Carla Carmichael presented an update on the new Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS). The Centre's mandate is to advance collaboration and research in nuclear material management and CANDU reactor dismantlement by identifying innovative solutions. A public launch of the CCNS will take place in the near future.

Public and Community Affairs

Aneliese St. Aubin presented an update on OPG involvement in community affairs. Among the items mentioned: OPG's COVID-19 response, including sewing many thousands of face masks for distribution to organizations across the Province; PowerOn Tuesdays program involving distribution of activity kits to families in Pickering and Clarington.

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Pickering CAC:

John Earley
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Greg Lymer
Tracy MacCharles
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Cameron Richardson
Dan Shire

Regrets:

Frank Dempsey
Donna Fabbro
Natalie Harder
Julie Kim
John Miseresky
Zachary Moshonas
Helen Shamsipour
John Stirrat

Guest

John Simpson

OPG:

Carla Carmichael
Jon Franke
Analiese St. Aubin

Hardy Stevenson Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: COVID 19 Protocol

Analiene St. Aubin, Manager, Corporate Relations & Communications, Stakeholder Relations, reviewed OPG's COVID 19 protocol.

Topic #2: Introductions

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy introduced Jon Franke, the new Senior Vice President, Pickering Nuclear.

Dave invited John Simpson to join the CAC. John was pleased to accept that invitation. It was agreed that John would join the Council as a member at large.

Topic #3: Review of Minutes

In reviewing the minutes from the CAC in May, a Council member noted that, in the Site Update, page 3, there is a reference to Unit 4 being in operation for "00" continuous days. As well, Unit 7's record is written as "84 days." These errors were corrected and the overall wording of the statement changed to:

"As of May 19, Unit 4 has been in operation for 648 consecutive days, the second highest record in Pickering Nuclear's history. The highest record of continuous operation at the site, held by Unit 7, is 894 days."

With these changes, the CAC minutes of May 19, 2020 were approved.

Jon noted that, when taken off-line on August 10, Unit 4 had run for 730 consecutive days. He also noted that, as of today (September 15), Darlington's Unit 1 has run for 963 consecutive days.

Topic #4: Site Update

Jon Franke presented a site update:

- COVID-19 has been a major focus for the station. When the pandemic was declared in early March, Pickering Nuclear reduced its on-site support staffing by 50 percent; everyone else worked at home. On-site staffing was gradually increased beginning in June. Such practices as cleaning of surfaces and the use of masks and social distancing were put in place. OPG implemented the recommendations of the provincial government regarding its approach to protecting staff from COVID-19.

- As of today, there has not been a single case of workplace-transmitted COVID-19. The temperature of everyone entering the plant is taken. The workforce has done a great job in following protocols and keeping everyone safe.
- On August 14, the Government of Ontario announced its support for an optimized shut down plan at Pickering Nuclear. The site is currently licensed by the CNSC for commercial operation to the end of 2024. Under the proposed extension, Units 1 and 4 would operate to the end of 2024, while Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 would operate into 2025. OPG will seek regulatory approval for the plan from the CNSC, likely through a public hearing in 2023. The proposed extension will protect 4,500 jobs and related economic benefits in Durham Region for longer. Provincial and municipal representatives attended a photo op at Pickering Nuclear to recognize the Government of Ontario's support for plan.
- Units 5, 7, and 8 are currently operating at, or close to, full power. Units 4 and 6 are in planned outages. For the time being, Unit 1 is being held at low power while a fueling machine is being repaired. It will be returned to full power very soon.
- At Unit 4, staff are inspecting fuel channels and generators. They are also overhauling the cooling water system.
- At Unit 6, staff are ensuring it is ready for life extension to the end of 2025. They are also harvesting Cobalt-60 at the unit.
- Unit 1 was shut down just before Labour Day due to a fueling machine leak, caused by a pipe break in the cooling lines. The leak was quickly addressed and the unit returned to service on that Sunday evening. There was no impact to the safety of the public, employees or the environment.

Referring to employees who have been tested for COVID-19, a Council member asked how long before the plant gets individual testing results. Jon said the turnaround time is 24 hours. He noted that the plant is moving to a saliva test, which is easier to administer than the nasal swab currently in use. He also noted that a WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) will be doing a review of the Darlington plant in October. All members of the review team coming into Darlington will be tested.

Topic #5: Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability

Carla Carmichael, Vice President Decommissioning Strategy, presented an update on the new Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS) (Appendix 1). Launched by Ontario Power Generation, the Centre's mandate is to advance collaboration and research in nuclear material management and CANDU reactor dismantlement by identifying innovative solutions. To achieve this mandate, CCNS will focus on four

pillars: environment, economy, community and industry. Carla emphasized that the Centre needs the wider community to help it move forward. CCNS would like to see Canada become the leader in decommissioning CANDU reactors.

Carla said that CCNS will identify and launch innovation opportunities through collaborations and partnerships with industry—and not only the nuclear industry—and will include government, academia and wider global leading entities.

Carla then listed a number of specific potential projects to dismantle the Pickering Nuclear plant in a sustainable way.

Hopefully, she said, the CCNS will be officially launched in October.

Carla responded to Council questions:

- *I understand that they are decommissioning CANDU reactors in Korea.*
Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power has four CANDU reactors at their Wolsong facility. They are decommissioning one of those units.
- *You mentioned that the Centre will be looking for partnerships with the nuclear industry and its vendors. Does that include small vendors? They represent a lot of employment.*
We will continue to seek partnerships with both small and large vendors. Also, as Pickering is decommissioned, not everything will shut down at once, so vendor opportunities will continue accordingly.
- *Is the CCNS a profit centre?*
No, we are not there to make money. We are there to give back to the community. For financial support for the Centre, three ambassador level industry partners are each contributing \$100,000. The remaining industry catalyst partners are contributing \$25,000 each.
- *I see a conflict between sustainability and decommissioning; the latter equals “ending.” There is an opportunity to recycle at least some portion of used nuclear fuel, which would reduce the need for storage. The recycled fuel could be used for small modular reactors, etc. I’d be willing to work with you in this area.*
That is an area worth looking into, as is the question of dealing with heavy water. It’s a matter of turning liabilities into assets. Though decommissioning is a necessary step in the process.
- *According to a recent BBC report, the site of a Scottish nuclear power facility now being decommissioned will be uninhabitable for 317 years. How long before the Pickering site is habitable?*
The intent is to bring the Pickering site back into different levels of reuse over time, beginning very soon. We are safely inhabiting the site right now. In the UK, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) regulates this process. In

Canada, decommissioning is regulated by the CNSC (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission). There are categories of soil remediation levels that will be considered.

In response to a Council question, Jon said that his experience did not include decommissioning CANDU plants. He was involved, however, in the decommissioning of a boiling water nuclear reactor in Humboldt Bay, California. Waste from that reactor was buried in a containment building, about 140 feet underground. Jon oversaw the last two years of that decommissioning, focusing on the underground structure. He was also involved in the decommissioning of a light water nuclear reactor.

Topic #6: 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:

- COVID-19 Response Update: Over the summer, an OPG project sewed 9,000 masks, which were distributed to health care facilities around the province. In addition, 5,000 masks were distributed to hospitals and organizations in Northern Ontario and Durham Region. In June, OPG donated 10,000 of its 3D printed face shields to the Ministry of Health for distribution to Indigenous communities and organizations across the province.
- PowerOn Tuesdays has been a safe adaptation of the Tuesdays on the Trail program. OPG partnered with community organizations to offer a curbside pickup program in Pickering and Clarington to provide more than 2,100 free “power pack” science, environment or education based activity kits to local families.
- Through its Employee Charity Campaign, OPG donated backpacks for children going back to school, containing a wide range of school supplies. These were given to the St. Paul’s on the Hill food bank for distribution to the community.
- The annual Take Pride in Pickering event takes place Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. Building on the success of PowerOn Tuesdays, the event will be a curbside pickup of a native shrub at Kinsmen Park. Up to 300 families can register via the TRCA website to receive a shrub on Sept. 26 to plant in their backyard.

In response to a Council question, Analiene reported that the peregrine falcons did not return to nest at the site this year.

Topic #7: Concluding Remarks

It was agreed that meeting from 5:30 to 7:00 pm is a reasonable timeframe.

In response to a Council question, Dave said that Eileen Clark could ask members not in attendance this evening if they were comfortable with meeting at 5:30.

In closing, Jon remarked that the nuclear industry exists at the will of the community. Therefore, the industry's engagement with the community is critical. For OPG, the CAC is a vital part of that engagement.

Topic #8: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 2.

**Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
(5:30 – 7:00 pm)**