

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Minutes, January 19, 2021
Highlights**

Site Update

Jon Franke presented an update on the operational status of the six active units on site. He also outlined Pickering Nuclear's priorities for 2021, which will focus on building the plant's legacy for Ontario, for OPG and for its employees.

OPG Emergency Preparedness

Stan Whatmough detailed the activities of the OPG Emergency Preparedness Department. The department's mandate is to implement and maintain emergency response capability within OPG Nuclear. Council members raised questions about cyber security, public messaging during a nuclear emergency and how the station would interact with regional and provincial governments during such an emergency.

Community Update

Analiese St. Aubin presented an update on Pickering Nuclear's involvement in community activities, including plans for virtual delivery of the Bring Back the Salmon education program for schools, webinars in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and other activities.

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Pickering CAC:

John Earley
Natalie Harder
Greg Lymer
Tracy MacCharles
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
John Miseresky
Cody Morrison
Zachary Moshonas
Peter Ottensmeyer
Dan Shire
John Simpson
John Stirrat

Regrets:

Donna Fabbro
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Cameron Richardson
Helen Shamsipour

Guest:

Jill Adams

OPG:

Jon Franke
Nicole O'Hagan
Analiese St. Aubin
Stan Whatmough

Hardy Stevenson Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Senior Vice President Jon Franke noted that nine Pickering Nuclear employees, who were asymptomatic, recently tested positive for COVID-19. These employees participated in the Ministry of Health's pilot project of Abbott Panbio rapid antigen tests for people who are asymptomatic. Test clinics were being held at various OPG sites. These employees stayed at home for two weeks to protect other employees.

The plant continues its safety protocols:

- Employee self-screening for symptoms of COVID-19
- Maintaining six-foot social distancing at all times
- Wearing masks anytime an employee is not isolated
- Hand sanitizer dispensers distributed throughout the plant

During the provincial emergency stay-at-home order, employees that can work from home are being asked to do so.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The minutes from the joint meeting of the Pickering and Darlington CACs on Dec. 1 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Update

Jon Franke presented a site update:

- Of the six active units at the site, Units 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are operating at full power. The planned outage of Unit 8 began on Jan. 11 and will continue for a total of 120 days. Units 4 and 6 have been returned to power and are now operating very well.
- Tasks occurring at Unit 8:
 - Removal and replacement of a single fuel channel (the channel was operating well, but has been removed to use for analysis)
 - Pressure tube inspections
 - And other activities to ensure fitness for service
- Richard Geofroy, who had been Director of Operations and Maintenance at Pickering, is now the Deputy Vice President at Darlington. In his stead, Val Bevacqua has returned to Pickering from Darlington. He was Shift Manager at Pickering for 12 years before going to Darlington, where he was involved in preparatory work for the refurbishment of Unit 3. We are pleased to have Val back at Pickering.

2021 at Pickering: Building our legacy

Jon outlined Pickering's priorities for 2021, which are to build on its exemplary performance recognition from WANO (the World Association of Nuclear Operators) and to build the plant's legacy (Appendix 1).

Jon talked about three aspects of that legacy:

- Legacy for Ontario: Create a clean energy future
- Legacy for OPG: Establish OPG as the company of choice to develop that clean energy future, including new nuclear
- Legacy for each individual: Give each teammate the skills and knowledge to build a better personal future

Jon said that the focus is on:

- Our People: Continued development of a highly skilled and engaged workforce
- Our Plant: Demonstrate excellence through safe and reliable operations and maintenance
- Our Future: Create the path to a clean energy future

Regarding the plant, Jon said that Pickering Nuclear will continue to drive maintenance backlogs to the lowest levels, to "drain the swamp from the highest priorities down to smaller tasks." This effort will include expanding use of the FIN (Fix It Now) process.

Jon noted that OPG can continue Pickering's good practices at Darlington.

Other priorities will be to refine outage performance, reduce tritium emissions and begin the transition to SAFESTOR. That transition will be carried out to the safest and highest nuclear standards, Jon said.

He remarked that all of Pickering Nuclear's priorities are important to building stakeholder relations.

Jon responded to Council questions and comments:

- *Widespread COVID testing of employees must be quite a challenge.*
We had a testing clinic that could provide results in two hours. Starting in late November, we have used a quick nasal swab that produces results in 20 minutes. We found nine people who were positive with no symptoms. Twenty thousand test kits were used up by January. Essentially, we ran out of these test kits, except for 1,500 kits that we've kept on hand for emergency use. But we are going to get more of these kits.
- *You mentioned further reduction of tritium emission levels at Pickering Nuclear. But these levels are already well below regulatory limits. At what point does the station say enough is enough?*

A lot of improvements are not expensive. It's important to demonstrate that we can limit our emissions very effectively.

Topic #4: OPG Emergency Preparedness

Stan Whatmough, Section Manager Emergency Preparedness, detailed the activities of the OPG Emergency Preparedness Department (Appendix 2), which is driven by the requirements of the CNSC and the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP). The department's mandate is to implement and maintain emergency response capability within OPG Nuclear.

The Emergency Preparedness pillars are:

1. Program Excellence
2. Perfect Practice
3. Constant Improvement through Innovation

Stan listed program highlights from 2020, including drills and exercises, addressing the COVID challenge, delivering KI pills following the Jan. 2020 "False Alert," and other activities.

He also listed 2021 priorities, including continued implementation of drills and exercises, maintaining strong relations with external partners, external evaluations, and initiatives in technology and other areas.

Stan, Jon and Analiese St. Aubin responded to Council questions and comments:

- *When you were talking about innovation you mentioned moving data to the Cloud (servers that are accessed over the Internet). Things can get lost on the Cloud. Do you have local backup files as a precaution?*
Stan: At OPG we share documents internally through the SharePoint system. We have full confidence in the security controls of that system.
- *I presume that the CNSC and WANO have standards for cyber security?*
Stan: Yes, we meet their standards. And the Emergency Preparedness Department saves certain documents and procedures on our own computers.
- *One benefit of the false alert of last January is that it got a lot of people interested in emergency response. One issue that came up is people said they don't know where to go in an emergency. But I believe the messaging was reasonably well handled at that time, given the circumstances.*
Analiese: Offsite issues are the responsibility of Durham Region, though we work very closely with them. After the false alert, we revised our strategy for communicating during an emergency. We have improved messaging to the public.

Jon: What occurred in January 2020 is not a good indication of public messaging during an emergency. It was more a reflection of what was going on with the false alert, and so unlike what messaging would be like in a real situation.

Stan: It wouldn't make sense to designate an evacuation destination until they know the wind direction.

- *An issue about public communications in a nuclear emergency came up about 20 years ago. People wanted to know about picking up their children from school.*

ACTION: It was agreed that someone will come to the February meeting to explain how the regional and provincial governments communicate locations of Reception Centres to residents (i.e., public messaging before or during an event)

- *You mentioned a Pickering WANO evaluation coming up in 2021. Didn't you just have one?*

Jon: Actually, the last WANO evaluation was in September 2019. These evaluations take place every two years, so the next one will come up in the fall of this year.

Topic #5: Community Update

Analiese St. Aubin, Manager of Corporate Relations and Communications at Pickering Nuclear, announced that she has moved into a new role at OPG. She will be managing stakeholder relations for the Pickering Nuclear decommissioning process.

Analiese remarked that it has been a pleasure working with the CAC for three and a half years. She added that, as decommissioning will become more and more a topic of focus for Pickering, she anticipates she will continue to work with the Council in the future.

On behalf of the CAC, a member thanked Analiese for her work with the group.

Analiese presented an update on OPG's involvement in community activities:

- Given the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Bring Back the Salmon education program will be delivered virtually to more than 70 classrooms over a 15-week period. The Pickering Nuclear team has worked very hard, in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), to develop the virtual program. It will reach about 2,000 students.
- Pickering Nuclear will also conduct webinars in January, February and March in partnership with TRCA.
- March Break programs will be offered virtually.

- The next issue of Neighbours will be delivered to homes in early March.

Topic #6: Closing Comments

Council member Peter Ottensmeyer remarked that he would appreciate feedback on his paper on the role of recycling nuclear fuel to achieve nuclear sovereignty for Canada. This paper was distributed with the December minutes.

Jon, and CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy, wished Analiese all the best in her new role.

Jon thanked the CAC for its participation, despite the challenge of meeting virtually. OPG highly values the Council's feedback, he said.

Dave noted that CAC meetings are now back on the regular schedule of the third Tuesday of each month. The group will be meeting in February and April. There may also be a virtual meeting in March.

Topic #7: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 3.

Forthcoming CAC Meetings

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Virtual Meeting
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 23?

Possible Virtual Meeting
(to be determined)

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Whether Virtual or Face-to-Face
To be Announced