

**Darlington Nuclear Generating Station  
Community Advisory Council  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes, Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
Highlights**

**Site Update**

Richard Geofroy presented an update on the operating status of the four units. He noted that the refurbishment of Unit 3 is currently 28 days ahead of schedule. He also talked about the site's safety performance, information sessions with employees and the employee fundraising program.

**OPG Climate Change Plan**

John Beauchamp talked about OPG's climate change goals and key initiatives to achieve them. He emphasized the importance of developing small modular reactors (SMRs) and electrification initiatives in getting to net-zero carbon emissions in the province. He also remarked that Darlington refurbishment is one of the pre-eminent clean energy projects in the world.

**Darlington Public/Community Affairs Report**

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on OPG's involvement in public and community activities. A virtual Bring Back the Salmon educational program; fun and educational programs for kids in partnership with community organizations, spread over several weeks; employee fundraising activities at Darlington Nuclear; and other items were mentioned.

**DNGS CAC DNNP Intervention Letter**

It was agreed that the CAC should submit an intervention letter to a forthcoming CNSC public hearing on an OPG application to extend its Site Preparation Licence for a Darlington New Nuclear Project.

**Darlington Nuclear Generating Station  
Community Advisory Council  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes, Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**Darlington CAC:**

Jim Boate  
Jim Cryderman  
Mary Ann Found  
Janice Jones  
Penny Smith

**Regrets:**

Tanya Albis  
Shirley Crago  
Sheila Hall  
Brenda Metcalfe  
Mary Novak

**OPG:**

Carrie-Anne Atkins  
John Beauchamp  
Richard Geofroy  
Jennifer Knox

**Hardy Stevenson and Associates:**

Francis Gillis  
Dave Hardy

**Topic #1: Introductions and Personnel Changes**

Jennifer Knox, Director, Nuclear Stakeholder Relations has been facilitating the Darlington CAC since 2008. She announced that she is now passing the torch to Dave Hardy and Francis Gillis. However, Jennifer will continue to attend CAC meetings.

Dave Hardy, who has provided consulting services to OPG for many years, has been facilitating the Pickering CAC for a number of months. Francis Gillis has been the note taker at Pickering CAC for many years.

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager, Corporate Affairs, will be responsible for preparing and organizing CAC meetings. Carrie plays the same role at Pickering.

Lindsay Hamilton is rejoining the Darlington team as Manager of Corporate Affairs, replacing Cheryl Johnston.

Richard Geofroy is now Acting Vice President at Darlington during the short-term absence of Senior Vice President Steve Gregoris.

CAC members and Richard introduced themselves.

## **Topic #2: Health and Safety Message**

Richard Geofroy talked about how the Darlington site is addressing the COVID-19 challenge. He said that the focus remains on providing safe and reliable power to Ontario. Many employees are still working at home. Where employees are required to be on site, they are following safety protocols and undergoing COVID-19 screening. There have been cases of COVID-19 among Darlington employees, but the numbers are much lower than what we are seeing in the general public. Over 2,000 employees are on the Darlington site at any one time.

## **Topic #3: Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the joint meeting of the Darlington and Pickering CACs on Dec. 1, 2020 were approved without changes.

## **Topic #4: Site Update**

Richard presented a site update:

- Units 2 and 4 are operating at full power. Unit 1 is in a planned maintenance outage and is scheduled to be back on line by the end of April. Unit 3 is in a refurbishment outage, at day 174 of a planned 1,096 days—28 days ahead of schedule. The refurbishment of Unit 3 looks to be well ahead of OPG's public commitment to be completed by January 2024.
- Last fall, Unit 1 set a world record for continuous operation of a nuclear power reactor. This record reflects Darlington's strong safety and human performance culture. Productivity follows from such a culture.
- The Unit 1 outage is focusing on OPG's strong preventive maintenance program, ensuring future success.

- The Unit 2 refurbishment yielded over 4,000 lessons learned and opportunities identified. These lessons reinforce the need for continuous improvement, safety and quality control.
- So far this year, there has been one lost time accident at the site during more than 28,000 working hours.
- Darlington's business plan for 2021 was shared with employees during January and February. Normally, the business plan is presented at a large gathering of employees but this year was presented on a virtual platform. There was very positive engagement.
- A virtual get-connected session was held on site with over 500 employees. Feedback was very positive. This session focused on three areas: Our People; Our Plant; Our Future.
- The Darlington employee fundraising program is focusing on four charities: Feed the Need Durham, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Clarington, Bethesda House, and Salvation Army of Bowmanville Corps. Employees raised over \$50,000 last year, which reflects their engagement and commitment to the community.

Richard responded to a Council question:

- *When you are half way through the refurbishment of Unit 3, will you be shutting down Unit 1 or Unit 4 for refurbishment?*  
We are now looking at getting Unit 3 back on line before shutting down Unit 1. Both Unit 1 and Unit 4 will be coming off line for refurbishment over the course of next year.

## **Topic #5: OPG Climate Change Plan**

John Beauchamp, Director – Environment, Health & Safety, talked about OPG's Climate Change Plan (see slide presentation in Appendix).

He noted that nuclear power plays a very important role in keeping carbon emissions from Ontario's electricity sector so low.

OPG's climate goals are to be:

- A net-zero carbon company by 2040, and
- A catalyst for a net-zero carbon economy by 2050 in markets where the company operates

Key initiatives to achieve these goals:

- Development of small modular reactors (SMRs)

- Advancing electrification initiatives in the province
- Darlington Nuclear Refurbishment (continued operation of the refurbished Darlington station will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 297 million tonnes—the equivalent of removing two million cars per year from Ontario’s roads)
- Continued investment in our hydroelectric generation
- Focus on adaption and resiliency of our assets
- Exploring opportunities in non-hydro renewables and energy storage
- Investing in negative emissions technologies (technologies that remove and sequester carbon from the environment)
- Supporting nature-based solutions and biodiversity initiatives

John remarked that developing small modular reactors and electrification initiatives (e.g. personal electric vehicle charging) are two of the biggest tools in decarbonizing the province. He noted that construction of a commercially-scaled SMR at Darlington would result in the removal of approximately one megatonne of carbon from total emissions in the province.

He also remarked that Darlington refurbishment is one of the pre-eminent clean energy projects in the world.

He noted that, with the closure of the Pickering plant in 2025, OPG expects its carbon emissions to go up before they go down again (due to a temporary increased reliance on natural gas plants).

John then presented OPG’s climate action plan detailing many specific goals for 2025, 2040, and 2050. He listed these goals in four areas:

- Mitigate carbon emissions
- Adapt to the impacts of a changing climate
- Innovate with new technologies to speed up Ontario’s energy transformation
- Lead, in partnership with others, the decarbonization of Ontario’s economy and share our province’s lessons with the world

John remarked that OPG’s Climate Change Plan is one of the very few on record providing such a high level of detail.

John responded to Council questions:

- *Is OPG’s Climate Change Plan available on its public website?*  
Yes, it is.
- *You mentioned that OPG’s Climate Change Plan avoids “greenwashing”? What does that mean?*  
It means hiding or distorting facts to present a green image without actually doing anything significant to reduce carbon emissions. In contrast to greenwashing, OPG has an interactive website that fosters transparency. People will know

exactly how we plan to get to net-zero carbon emissions. We will provide warts-and-all progress reports, informing the public of our successes and failures.

- *You mentioned storing electricity as a way to meet periods of high demand. Power walls for storing electricity in homes in case of a power outage is one example I've heard of. What are OPG's plans around power storage?*  
We are looking at various technologies. This is still a new area.

## **Topic #6: Darlington Public/Community Affairs Report**

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

- The Bring Back the Salmon program has gone virtual, reaching over 3400 students across Ontario. Students will observe Atlantic salmon development and learn all about them through weekly videos.
- With the postponement of March break, OPG will be providing fun and educational programs to kids through a virtual platform spread over several weeks. Community partners include Scientists in Schools, Earth Rangers, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and others.
- Throughout February and March, OPG employees will be raising funds for local charities through Canada Helps. Darlington Nuclear is supporting: Feed the Need Durham, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Clarington, Bethesda House and the Salvation Army of Bowmanville Corps.
- OPG is seeking from the CNSC renewal of its 10-year Site Preparation Licence to support the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP). Consultation activities include two stakeholder information sessions in March for NGOs and two public information sessions taking place on April 6 and 8.

## **Topic #7: DNGS CAC DNNP Intervention Letter**

Jennifer Knox noted that, in 2012, the CAC submitted an intervention letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) supporting OPG's application for a 10-year Site Preparation Licence for the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP). OPG now wants to extend that licence to prepare the site for potential construction. This preparation will include basic work around the site, such as laying wires for servicing construction of the new nuclear project. Any actual construction will require a separate licence at a later date.

Jennifer said that OPG will make the CAC's 2012 intervention letter available to Council members.

She said that OPG is looking for feedback from the CAC and the Municipality of Clarington, as well as other municipal and provincial stakeholders that typically intervene in the process.

It was generally agreed that the CAC should submit an intervention letter to the CNSC, and that they should support OPG's application to extend the licence.

Dave said that Hardy Stevenson and Associates will distribute the CAC's original intervention letter along with a draft letter to the CNSC for extension of the licence. CAC members will review the draft through an exchange of emails and, if necessary, will discuss and finalize the letter in a meeting at the end of March.

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021**

DNGS CAC

Virtual Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

Joint DNGS/PNGS CACs

Virtual Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm