

**Darlington Nuclear Generating Station  
Community Advisory Council  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes, Tuesday, March 30, 2021  
Highlights**

**Site Update**

Richard Geofroy updated the CAC on Darlington's safety performance and on the operating status of the four reactors on the site, including an update on refurbishment of Unit 3. He also talked about a recent Globe and Mail article making erroneous statements about pressure tubes in the context of OPG's successful application to the CNSC to renew Pickering's operating licence.

**Responsible Management of Nuclear By-Products**

Fred Mason talked about the work of OPG's Nuclear Waste Management division, including a number of approaches to waste minimization. He also talked about OPG's leadership role in nuclear waste management innovation as well as OPG's continued commitment to safe and permanent disposal.

**Darlington Public/Community Affairs**

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on OPG's involvement in: a virtual multi-week educational program for children; virtual public information sessions on OPG's site preparation licence to support Darlington's new nuclear project; and other activities of interest to the community.

**CAC Intervention Letter**

The Council approved a final draft of their submission to the CNSC supporting renewal of OPG's Site Preparation Licence for the Darlington New Nuclear Project.

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**Darlington CAC:**

Jim Boate  
Jim Cryderman  
Sheila Hall  
Janice Jones  
Mary Novak

Regrets:

Tanya Albis  
Shirley Crago  
Mary Ann Found  
Brenda Metcalfe  
Penny Smith

**OPG:**

Kapil Aggarwal  
Carrie-Anne Atkins  
Richard Geofroy  
Lindsay Hamilton  
Jennifer Knox  
Fred Kuntz  
Fred Mason  
Mark Welt

**Hardy Stevenson and Associates:**

Francis Gillis  
Dave Hardy

**Topic #1: COVID-19 Update**

Richard Geofroy, Acting Senior Vice President, presented a COVID-19 update for Darlington Nuclear. He remarked that COVID-19 is still very much a focus at OPG. It has been almost a year now since the outbreak began, but it is important not to become complacent about remaining safe. Very few cases of COVID-19 are being caught from strangers, but we tend to drop our guard around family and friends. Important as such get-togethers are, we need to be careful when we do meet. One very safe kind of get-

together are “fly-bys” with neighbours, where conversations take place with people stopping on the sidewalk and talking to neighbours at their front door. Such activities help us to keep in touch with one another.

Richard noted that four Darlington employees recently tested positive for COVID-19. The Ontario Health Department defines a workplace outbreak when two or more workers test positive for the virus, whether the number at the site is two or 2,000. So the outbreak at Darlington required public notification, a review of preventative actions at the company and increased reporting.

There were also a number of positive cases among employees working off-site.

The Darlington station continues to reinforce safety protocols, use of three-ply masks and daily screening questionnaires. Employees are told to stay at home if they are feeling ill.

There are still very low case numbers across the site, Richard said in conclusion, but we need to do even better.

Richard responded to Council questions:

- *Do you conduct rapid testing on site?*  
Yes. We focus on critical work groups. We have a back-up supply of testing kits in case of unexpected outbreaks in other work groups.
- *What is the timeframe for rapid testing?*  
About half an hour.
- *Is the supply of test kits strictly for OPG employees?*  
Yes. We have a limited supply of kits, so we are focusing on key groups. But if there is an outbreak among non-key groups, then we can draw on the back-up supply that I mentioned.

## **Topic #2: Review of Minutes**

The Community Advisory Council minutes of Feb. 23, 2021 were approved without changes. These minutes will now be posted on the OPG public website.

## **Topic #3: Site Update**

Richard presented a site update:

- Units 2 and 4 are operating at full power. Unit 1 is in a planned outage, and Unit 3 is undergoing refurbishment.
- There was a heavy water leak at Unit 1 on Saturday, March 20. The leak was contained and the water recovered. It was found that a closure plug was leaking. The plug was resealed, and there was no environmental or public impact. Information about this incident was reported to the province and the CNSC.
- The refurbishment of Unit 3 continues to progress well. It is now 30 days ahead of schedule. Work is currently focused on pressure tubes.
- Over seven million work-hours have been completed at Darlington since the last lost-time accident.
- The planned outage at Unit 1 is progressing well. The refurbishment of Unit 1 is scheduled to begin early next year, so we have to make sure the unit will operate safely until then.
- Regarding the Covid vaccination schedule at Darlington, we have informed employees where they fit in, in terms of age, risk factors and job categories. The key target for vaccinations are those workers required on site to keep the plant operating. Their vaccinations are set for the April to June timeframe. The remaining employees are scheduled for August and September.
- He stated, last week he emailed CAC members the Globe and Mail article asserting that OPG had used flawed data about pressure tubes in its application to the CNSC to renew the Pickering station's operating licence. He also attached a Pickering Nuclear statement in response to that article. The Globe piece is quite misleading and included several inaccuracies. Here are the facts:
  - In determining pressure tube integrity at Pickering, OPG used a number of different strategies, all independent of one another. Pressure tube analysis involves taking a scraping inside a tube and analyzing that sliver, a process that requires special equipment used by outside experts.
  - OPG worked with two vendors, one a long-time supplier and the other a newer supplier. Those two companies were originally used by OPG to provide quality assurance. In analyzing and testing pressure tube slivers, the newer vendor got more favourable results, but OPG used the more conservative numbers from the other vendor. We learned that the newer vendor's equipment required additional calibration. OPG did not use the newer vendor's data.
  - The Globe article was harmful to OPG and staff.

A Council member congratulated OPG for being 30 days ahead of schedule on the refurbishment of Unit 3. The member remarked that Darlington is doing extremely well, given the extra challenges of COVID-19.

#### **Topic #4: Responsible Management of Nuclear By-Products**

Richard Geofroy noted that the Darlington's Waste Management Facility's operating licence expires on April 30, 2023. OPG will be applying to the CNSC for a new licence on Sept. 24 of this year. There are no new activities listed in this application. OPG is requesting a 10-year licence.

Fred Mason, Manager Nuclear Waste Facility, Darlington Used Fuel Organization, was joined by his colleagues Kapil Aggarwal and Fred Kuntz. He began his presentation (Appendix) by noting that strong safety performance continues across OPG's Nuclear Waste Management (NWM) division. NWM's safety culture is reflected in its strict protocols related to COVID-19. Fred then talked about the Darlington Waste Management Facility; the role of nuclear waste management in supporting Darlington refurbishment; embracing the 3Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle—to minimize the volume of stored materials; innovation in OPG's nuclear waste management; and OPG's continued commitment to safe and permanent disposal.

Fred remarked that OPG is a leader in innovation. The company's two X-labs include a focus on innovation in waste management. The NWM division is exploring:

- Metal melt (to reduce volumes of large metal objects, such as used heat exchangers)
- Advances in welding, sorting, automation
- Small modular reactors (including the possible recycling in future of some used fuel)

Regarding lasting solutions, Fred said there will always be some radioactive waste that will require permanent disposal to protect people and the environment for the long term. OPG supports the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) process for a used-fuel Deep Geological Repository (DGR). The NWMO has now narrowed the search for a DGR site to two qualified communities in Ontario that have indicated an interest in hosting a DGR, South Bruce and Ignace.

Fred and colleagues responded to Council questions:

- *I understand that there are three categories of radioactive waste: low-level, intermediate-level, and high-level. How close are we to a decision on the two potential DGR sites that you mentioned?*

Fred Mason: Those two sites are for high-level waste.

Kapil Aggarwal: Whichever site is chosen, that DGR will be for the storage of high-level waste/used fuel from all of Canada's nuclear generators. A siting decision for that DGR should be reached by 2023.

Fred Mason: The DGR for high-level waste is not to be confused with the Deep Geologic Repository for low- and intermediate-level waste (L&ILW) that was being considered for the Bruce site. OPG had committed to not developing the L&ILW repository without the consent of the Saugeen First Nation living near the proposed site. The Saugeen First Nation voted against the DGR, and so OPG cancelled that project. OPG is currently participating in a Natural Resources Canada review of the federal policy framework for radioactive waste. We shall see whether the federal policy or strategy identifies alternative solutions for disposal. This review will be completed by the end of May, with a policy outcome announced by the fall or the end of the year.

- *When does OPG use metal melts as a way to handle radioactive waste?*

Fred Mason: Much of the nuclear metal waste is compacted. Metal melt is used for large objects, such as steam generators, where compaction is not an option.

Kapil Aggarwal: Those large objects are melted down to metal blocks, which are used in the nuclear industry for shielding against radioactive equipment.

- *An announcement of OPG collaboration with a used fuel recycling project was shared with the CAC this afternoon. Can you elaborate on that?*

Fred Kuntz: OPG's Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS) has contributed \$1 million to assist Moltex Energy on a project in New Brunswick aimed at recycling used fuel from CANDU reactors. Moltex is looking at developing a reactor that would extract energy from used nuclear fuel that would then be used as new fuel in other advanced reactor designs. The project would thus potentially reduce the amount of used fuel requiring long-term storage in a DGR. OPG is very interested in the outcome of that development. The CCNS is also engaged with other companies in enhancing management of nuclear waste. Here are the links to the OPG and Moltex press releases:

[https://www.opg.com/media\\_releases/opg-collaborating-with-moltex-to-study-clean-energy-solutions/](https://www.opg.com/media_releases/opg-collaborating-with-moltex-to-study-clean-energy-solutions/)

<https://www.moltexenergy.com/opg-collaborating-with-moltex-to-study-cl>

## **Topic #5: Darlington Public/Community Affairs Report**

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

- The winter issue of Neighbours newsletter arrived in mailboxes this month.
- The Virtual Power Kids program is ongoing. It extends this year's March Break Blitz program with weekly virtual learning sessions over a six-week period. This is a really cool program for children aged six to 12. Launched last week, the first program featured Scientists in Schools. Scientist Heather Staines identified trees,

bird calls and animal tracks. Over 600 classes participated in that first program. With 20 to 25 students in each class, the audience totaled over 12,000. The program remains on line, so teachers or students can refer back to it. At the joint Darlington/Pickering CAC meeting on May 18, we will have a fulsome review of the program series.

- As you know, OPG has applied to the CNSC for renewal of the Site Preparation Licence to support the Darlington New Nuclear Project. OPG is hosting virtual public information sessions next week (April 6 and 8), so the public can hear more about the relicencing process and have their questions answered by OPG project staff. (Carrie-Anne had sent an email to the CAC with a link for any member who wants to register for one or both sessions.)
  - [Event > Darlington New Nuclear Project Virtual Information Sessions | OPG](#)
- The Western Waste Management Facility has been awarded Gold Certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council for its biodiversity programs.

## **Topic #6: CAC Intervention Letter**

The Council approved a final draft of a CAC submission to the CNSC supporting renewal of OPG's Site Preparation Licence for the Darlington New Nuclear Project. The CAC letter will be tabled at the Commission's public hearing on OPG's application to be held on June 9 and 10, 2021.

## **Topic #7: CAC General Questions and Comments**

Dave Hardy asked Council members if they had any questions or comments on any topic. One question was raised:

- *If the construction of new nuclear at Darlington goes ahead, will there be closures or detours around site adjacent roads? Will the Darlington waterfront trail be rerouted to prevent its being interrupted?*  
Jennifer Knox: Construction of each of the three SMR designs under consideration could potentially impact the trail or site-adjacent roads. The potential impact would depend on which design was being constructed. We will know of such impacts a year in advance and will first inform the CAC and then the Municipality of Clarington. There will not necessarily be any impact. That would be the best-case scenario.

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**  
Joint Darlington and Pickering  
Community Advisory Council  
Virtual Meeting  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm