

**DNGS Community Advisory Council  
and  
PNGS Community Advisory Council  
Joint Virtual Meeting  
Minutes, Tuesday, May 18, 2021  
Highlights**

**Pickering Site Update**

Jon Franke talked about the station's focus on mental health during the pandemic and also on the importance of vaccinations. As well, he provided an update on the operating status of the six units at the site, and mentioned how proud the station is about Pickering Nuclear Receiving the 2020 Environmental Civic Award from the City of Pickering.

**Darlington Site Update**

Steve Gregoris provided an update on the operating status of Units 1, 2, and 4 at Darlington as well as an update on the progress of the refurbishment of Unit 3, now 72 days ahead of schedule. He also talked about the station's review of its safety culture, including a staff survey.

**Great Lakes Waterfront Trail**

Darlington CAC member Jim Boate presented an update on the Waterfront Trail, which is over 3,200 kilometres in length and includes wetlands, beaches and forests.

**Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS)**

Carla Carmichael presented an update on the CCNS and its role in decommissioning strategy. She talked about the Centre's role in: innovation in the industry; strengthening the economy; enhancing OPG's leadership position in sustainable nuclear decommissioning; and building strong and safe communities.

**Public/Community Affairs**

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Stations' involvement in community activities. Among the items mentioned: OPG's educational Virtual Power Kids program (a total of 80,000 students had logged on by the end of the five-week program); public information sessions about the Darlington New Nuclear Project; OPG COVID-related contributions in support of transportation to and from vaccination sites as well as food relief at Indigenous communities; enabling kids to virtually participate in the Bring Back the Salmon program.

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**Pickering CAC:**

Frank Dempsey  
Donna Fabbro  
Natalie Harder  
Greg Lymer  
Tracy MacCharles  
Pat Mattson  
John Miseresky  
Cody Morrison  
Peter Ottensmeyer  
Helen Shamsipour  
Dan Shire  
John Simpson

Regrets:

Jill Adams  
John Earley  
Bill Houston  
Tim Kellar  
Sean McCullough  
Zachary Moshonas  
John Stirrat

**Darlington CAC:**

Jim Boate  
Penny Smith

Regrets:

Tanya Albis  
Shirley Crago  
Jim Cryderman  
Mary Ann Found  
Sheila Hall  
Janice Jones  
Brenda Metcalf  
Mary Novak

**OPG:**

Carrie-Anne Atkins  
Carla Carmichael  
Jon Franke  
Steve Gregoris  
Lindsay Hamilton  
Jennifer Knox  
Analiese St. Aubin  
Lindsay Tilley

**Hardy Stevenson Associates:**

Francis Gillis  
Dave Hardy

**Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment**

Jon Franke, Senior Vice President at Pickering Nuclear, and Steve Gregoris, Senior Vice President at Darlington Nuclear, presented updates on health and safety practices at their respective sites in relation to COVID-19. They both emphasized the importance of not getting complacent after many months of dealing with the pandemic challenge. Jon noted that one day of lower standards can have consequences. Steve noted that all OPG stations are aligned in their response to COVID-19, not just the nuclear sites. The stations are also addressing the mental health stresses caused by the pandemic.

**Topic #2: Review of Minutes**

The minutes from the Darlington CAC meeting of March 30, 2021 and from the Pickering CAC minutes of April 20, 2021 were both approved without changes.

**Topic #3: Site Update Pickering**

Jon Franke presented a site update:

- Mental health organizations across the province are reporting higher rates of mental health concerns and suicide. The site is therefore focusing on the mental health of staff members.
- The site is also emphasizing to employees the importance of vaccinations in addressing the pandemic.

- Units 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are operating at full or near to full power.
- Unit 8 is now in Day 124 of its planned outage, which is one-and-a-half to two weeks ahead of schedule. OPG plans to return the unit to service at the end of June. The fuel channel replacement is now complete.
- OPG is very proud to have won a Pickering Environmental 2020 Civic Award from the City of Pickering. The company operates at the will of the community, so the award from the community is very reassuring. The station received the award thanks to its contribution to conserving and enhancing the city's natural environment. Pickering Nuclear has a proud history of environmental stewardship demonstrated by our many biodiversity community programs. The Pickering plant and its employees are involved in many activities in the community, among them Operation Clean Sweep (in which employee volunteers help seniors with outdoor yard work twice a year) and shoreline cleanups.

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

Steve Gregoris presented a site update:

- Unit 2 and Unit 4 are operating at full power. Unit 1 is in a forced outage.
- On Saturday evening, during routine turbine testing of the protection circuits at Unit 4, specifically a low oil pressure test, there was an operator error. This tripped a mechanism that brought the unit off-line. This was a significant event that provided a learning opportunity. But the unit and staff members reacted well to the incident.
- Unit 1 was in a planned outage and was brought back on line in April. But a couple of problems occurred, causing the unit to be put back on outage. But the unit is expected to be back on line by the end of the week.
- Unit 3 has now been in refurbishment over 200 days. The unit has been separated (islanded) from the other three units on site. The fuel has been removed and water drained from the unit. The refurbishment is progressing well and is now 72 days ahead of schedule.
- The station is reviewing its safety culture, which is based on such principles as accountability, leadership and safety. The first part of this assessment is a staff survey, to which 99 percent of staff responded. This demonstrates employee interest in safety and will give a good picture of the safety culture at the station. The next part of the assessment will take place at the beginning of June and will include discussions with staff.

A Council member asked if Pickering Nuclear also does such a survey. Jon said yes, Pickering also conducts a staff survey on nuclear safety.

## **Topic #5: Great Lakes Waterfront Trail**

Darlington CAC member Jim Boate presented an update on the Waterfront Trail (Appendix 1). The Trail is over 3,200 kilometres in length and includes wetlands, beaches and forests. In 2017, it was named a “Trail of Distinction” by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Jim noted that a coming extension of the Trail will take it from Sault Ste. Marie to beyond Thunder Bay.

The Clarington section of the Trail is now 99 percent paved.

A new connector near Clarington links the Greenbelt Trail to the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail. There are signs to show the connection. There are also interactive maps between the two trails.

Coming up in 2022 or 2023 is a Great Lakes Waterfront Trail Adventure bike ride from The Bruce to Darlington, a trip of 1,000 km.

### **Comments:**

Steve Gregoris was struck with how elaborate the Trail is. Jim remarked that the Trail affords all kinds of opportunities for hiking, short walks or biking. For example, you could start at Darlington and bike to Newcastle, a 25 km ride. Or people take the GO train to Oshawa and cycle to Clarington, a round trip of about 60 km. There are challenging hills near Clarington.

Jennifer Knox, who facilitated the Darlington CAC for many years, thanked Jim for his presentation. Jim’s input, she said, is an example of how Council members bring great value to OPG. She noted that Jim joined the CAC about 10 years ago. His perspective has enriched OPG’s understanding of the cycling community.

Dave Hardy noted that several CAC members expressed their appreciation of Jim’s presentation in the Chat function.

## **Topic #6: Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability**

Carla Carmichael, Vice President Nuclear Decommissioning Strategy, presented an update on the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS) and its role in decommissioning strategy (Appendix 2).

Carla said that the decommissioning of Pickering Nuclear would begin with the end of commercial operations in 2025 (pending regulatory approval). The decommissioning process could extend to the 2060s, but the CCNS will be continually looking for technological advances to move things forward.

Carla quoted the Mission and Vision of the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability:

- CCNS Vision: Nuclear technology is adopted as the sustainable energy source for future generations
- CCNS Mission: Bringing the industry together to invest in our environment, community and economy through the advancement of innovative and sustainable nuclear lifecycle solutions.

Carla said that the CCNS aims to demonstrate that it has sound plans for managing nuclear waste. Aligning with a wide range of organizations and people will enable the Centre to carry out its Mission and meet its nuclear lifecycle goals. To date, the CCNS has 38 industry and community partners, a constantly growing number.

The CCNS wants to ensure that its activities are transparent to communities, including Indigenous communities.

Carla noted that the CCNS building opened last October. The Centre would be happy to host a future CAC meeting and take members on a tour of the building.

Carla went on to talk about the CCNS's role in: innovation in the industry; strengthening the economy; enhancing OPG's leadership position in sustainable nuclear decommissioning; and building strong and safe communities.

Regarding innovation in the industry, she noted that close to 300 innovative ideas have been submitted to the CCNS. These have been narrowed down to about 10 ideas for further exploration.

The Centre has recently joined with Moltex and contributed \$1 million to a project to develop a process to recycle used CANDU fuel. However, Carla reinforced that we would never be able to recycle the entire volume of used fuel, so long-term storage has to remain part of the picture. Other innovations include: BWXT Nuclear Energy developing a technology to recycle heavy water to divert materials away from storage, to minimize stored volumes, and to support free release of clean materials, while

increasing re-use and recycling; and McMaster University's project to explore new methods and technologies to manage low-level radioactive materials.

Carla concluded her presentation by outlining next steps for the CCNS:

- New investments over the next year in areas of innovation, technical studies, analyses and project management to continue to drive economic growth
- Engage and collaborate with the stakeholders, the community and Indigenous communities
- Share our story and build awareness of our plans as they continue to evolve.

She urged Council members to follow the Centre on LinkedIn and Twitter.

Council member Peter Ottensmeyer was delighted about OPG's contribution to Moltex's project to develop recycling of used CANDU fuel. He expressed interest in being on that project's mailing list. Carla said she would be happy to arrange that.

Carla and Jon responded to Council questions and comments:

- *There is a huge store of used fuel at Pickering. Is any of that to be used in the Moltex project?*

Carla: Currently, they are using only used fuel from the Point Lepreau plant in New Brunswick, the province where Moltex Canada is located.

- *What countries, other than communist countries, have indicated an interest in CANDU technology?*

Carla: Many countries have expressed interest, not just communist countries.

Jon: Yes, a range of countries have expressed interest: Georgia, Korea, India, Finland and others. There are 13 CANDU reactors in China, and four units are being built in the United Arab Emirates.

- *Is the level of interest in nuclear power around the world changing?*

Jon: Yes, with climate change, interest in nuclear power is simmering. Nuclear has a distinct advantage over wind and solar power, because it can supply on-demand power in large quantities.

- *The current boundary around Pickering Nuclear is not Montgomery Road; site land extends down to beach front park. Will any repurposing of the site affect the Waterfront Trail?*

Jon: There is a draft proposal about repurposing the site. Montgomery Road is not expected to change.

Carla: Availability of the Waterfront Trail will be maintained.

## **Topic #7: Public/Community Affairs**

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager Corporate Affairs, presented an update on Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Stations' involvement in community activities:

- Throughout March and April of this year, OPG's Virtual Power Kids program provided virtual learning sessions to over 16,000 students aged six to 12 across the province. Topics covered included biodiversity, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Indigenous culture, arts and climate change. By the end of the five-week program, a total of 80,000 students had logged on. Community partners in presenting the sessions included Scientists in School, Earth Rangers, Carea Community Health Centre, Driftwood Theatre and Nature Conservancy of Canada. The program was a win-win for the kids and for OPG and its employees.
- In support of OPG's application for renewal of its site preparation licence, the Darlington New Nuclear Project hosted two virtual public information sessions in April. A total of 150 members of the public attended these sessions, which had been promoted through advertising in the Clarington newspaper, the Neighbours Newsletter, opg.com, social media and other communications tools. The Licence application will be considered by the CNSC at a public hearing scheduled to take place on June 9 and 10.
- In early April, OPG donated \$10,000 to Community Care Durham supporting transportation services to and from vaccinations clinics. OPG also provided \$10,000 to each of the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centre and Durham Region Transit for the same support. As well, OPG provided \$10,000 in support of COVID-19 food relief initiatives at each of five Indigenous communities.
- OPG partners with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and other organizations in the Bring Back the Salmon program. This year, from the virtual classroom, more than 3,400 students from 115 classrooms across Ontario observed Atlantic salmon development and learned about their biology, history and ecology through weekly video sessions. The 15-week program will include the release of salmon eggs in Duffins and Coburg Creeks at the end of the month.
- Although COVID-19 safety protocols prevented Darlington from hosting elementary and high school students on the site as part of the annual Pollinating Partners Program, Courtice Secondary students were able to learn about the importance of pollinators, including hands-on learning in their very own greenhouse.
- Each year, local ornithologist Elizabeth Kellogg monitors and tags Tree Swallows in numerous nest boxes located at the Darlington site. These nest boxes were built in partnership with Courtice Secondary School.



- This year, Pickering Nuclear got news from the Canadian Peregrine Foundation that one of our 2017 offspring peregrine falcons, Becquerel, was injured, recuperated and actually made his way back to a nest in downtown Toronto. The last time a brood hatched at the Pickering site was 2018, but Becquerel is doing well in his Toronto location.
- Due to current stay-at-home measures, Darlington and Pickering have postponed their spring curbside pickups of free shrubs.
- Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, a modified version of the Tuesdays on the Trail program will be offered to families within Durham Region. The program will run on four Tuesdays in July and August utilizing public spaces like the parking lot areas of Bayridges Kinsmen Park and the Darlington Waterfront Trail.
- The Summer issue of Neighbours Newsletter will arrive in mailboxes in June.

## **Topic #8: Concluding Remarks**

It was agreed that a copy of Council member Peter Ottensmeyer's address to the Canadian Nuclear Association regarding recycling of used nuclear fuel should be appended to these minutes (Appendix 3).

Jon Franke remarked that nuclear plants rely on the good will of their host communities. He thanked the Pickering and Darlington CACs for their participation. Council comments are a welcome addition to OPG's communications with the community, he said.

Steve Gregoris echoed Jon's remarks about the importance of community engagement and the role of the CACs. He added that he is pleased to be back after having to miss a couple of CAC meetings. He praised Council members for the quality of their participation.

## **Topic #9: CNSC News**

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 4.

## **Forthcoming Meetings (Virtual??)**

### **PNGS Community Advisory Council**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**DNGS Community Advisory Council**  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021  
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm