

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
Highlights

Site Update

Jon Franke presented an update on: the operating status of the site's six active units; an OPG letter of intent to the CNSC regarding extending commercial operation of some units into 2025; discussions with employees about staff reductions at the end of 2025; and other matters.

OPG Enterprise Emergency Management

Stan Whatmough talked about emergency preparedness highlights from 2021 and plans for 2022. Emergency Response Organization (ERO) priorities for this year include: a full drill schedule; maintaining strong partnerships with the community and nuclear industry; external evaluations; and various organizational improvements. Council members raised questions about off-site nuclear emergencies and other matters.

Public/Community Affairs Report

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on recent and forthcoming OPG activities in the community. Among the items noted: lead sponsorship of Windreach Farm's first Holiday Festival of Lights Drive-Thru; employee donations to Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) Food and Toy Drive; OPG's involvement in the Bring Back the Salmon program; building on the success of last year's Virtual Power Kids program.

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CAC:

John Earley
Natalie Harder
Sean McCullough
John Miseresky
Cody Morrison
Tavis Nimmo
Peter Ottensmeyer
Dan Shire
John Simpson

Regrets:

Jill Adams
Frank Dempsey
Donna Fabbro
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Tracy MacCharles
Pat Mattson
Helen Shamsipour

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Jon Franke
Ethel Macasias
Stan Whatmough

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Land Acknowledgment, Health & Safety Moment

Following a land acknowledgment by Senior Vice President Jon Franke, Carrie-Anne Atkins noted that she had just finished an on-line 12-week Indigenous Canada course

that explores indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. Carrie-Anne found the course really informative.

Jon remarked that COVID-19 is back in the community in force, with 16 to 20 new cases a day. But the transmission rate at the Pickering Nuclear workplace is very low. This seems to be related to such protocols as the use of medical masks when working in close quarters and social distancing.

He also remarked that yesterday's snow storm calls for taking special care on the roads.

Jon noted that Pickering Nuclear had gone almost two years without a safety event on the site. Last June, however, an instance of blow-down noise from the outflow of (non-radioactive) water from the plant caused a hearing injury to a diver working on the station's fish diversion net. That employee returned to work in September. Otherwise, the site continues to enjoy event-free days.

Topic #2: CAC Membership Changes and Review of Minutes

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy noted several membership changes:

- John Stirrat, a CAC member since 2018, recently passed away. Dave left a condolence note to the family on the funeral home website: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/west-hill-on/john-stirrat-10527001>
- Zach Moshonas has resigned from the Council, as he has accepted an OPG position in the Ottawa Valley. Zach and his wife are expecting a new baby.
- Welcome to Tavis Nimmo, who is replacing Greg Lymer as the representative for the Regional Municipality of Durham.

The minutes from the joint Pickering/Darlington CAC meeting of Dec. 7, 2021 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Update

Senior Vice President Jon Franke presented a site update:

- All but one of the site's six active units are operating at or near full power. Unit 5 is in a planned outage that began in the first week of January and will extend well into spring. The main purpose of the outage is to demonstrate that the unit is fit for safe and effective operation to the end of 2024. A fuel channel will be removed, as a sample of the fitness of the channels as a whole, and replaced with a new channel. Pieces of metal will be cut from the removed channel to

evaluate its fitness for service. This and other inspections require a relatively long outage.

- On Dec. 16, OPG sent a formal letter of intent to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding operations to the end of 2025 that would require Commission approval. In 2018, the CNSC had granted Pickering a 10-year licence permitting commercial operations to the end of 2024. OPG is seeking to sequentially bring Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 out of service over the course of 2025. (Units 1 and 4 will be sequentially brought out of service in 2024, as permitted by the current operating licence.) The OPG proposal to extend the commercial life of Units 5 – 8 into 2025 is in response to a request from Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), who require the extension as they arrange for replacement sources of power during 2025. Over the next four months, OPG will submit to the CNSC material related to the extension. A public meeting on the proposal will be held in 2023.
- Through the months of January and early February, OPG is rolling out its 2022 Business Plan to Pickering employees. This will cover the company's strategy and how Pickering Nuclear fits into that strategy.
- Station managers will be talking with employees about staff reductions at end of 2025. Pickering employees with long experience are being offered opportunities at Darlington and elsewhere in OPG. Newer employees have been hired for the short term and OPG is working with them to develop pathways for future work at the company or elsewhere. Toward the end of next year, there will be exploration of opportunities for workers not staying at OPG.

Topic #4: OPG Enterprise Emergency Management

Stan Whatmough, Section Manager Emergency Preparedness, talked about EP highlights from 2021 and plans for 2022 (Appendix).

Stan noted that, at OPG in 2021, Nuclear Emergency Preparedness integrated corporate Emergency Management to create Enterprise Emergency Management. This integration allowed enhanced oversight for business continuity, crisis management (e.g., Covid) and the power grid.

Other initiatives during the year included: a number of drills and exercises; distribution of 285,000 Potassium Iodide (KI) pills; innovation to increase mobile and satellite phone capability; and COVID protocols within the Emergency Response Organization (ERO).

The WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) evaluation of Pickering Nuclear recognized Enterprise Emergency Management's remote evaluation of drills as an industry leading strength, allowing OPG to maintain ERO proficiency at a time when the industry as a whole saw a decline in proficiency of drills.

Stan then talked about 2022 priorities, including continued implementation of a full drill schedule (five at Darlington and six at Pickering) through the year. Exercise Unified Command will be headquartered at Darlington Feb. 23 – 25. Additional 2022 priorities: maintaining strong partnerships with the community and nuclear industry; external evaluations; technology upgrades; improving organizational agility; supporting new nuclear build at Darlington (SMR); and streamlining levels of Emergency Response Organization staffing and facilities.

Stan responded to Council questions:

- *Does the Emergency Response Program cover off-site accidents, in particular during transportation of nuclear materials?*

Yes, we do a lot of shipments of low-level nuclear waste. We have a very good track record on transportation of nuclear materials. Every two or three years we do ERP drills. A Transportation Emergency Response Plan (TERP) Drill was conducted in 2021 (see illustrations in Appendix 1, Slide 7).

- *Are the results of the TERP drills public?*

I don't know the answer off the top of my head, but I will look into that and report back to the Council.

Carrie-Anne Atkins remarked that large-scale drills are usually followed up with a public report. She added that she will check on public reporting regarding emergency response drills.

Carrie-Anne noted that Exercise Unified Command in February is based on a simulated nuclear emergency at Darlington. A public communications focus group will be held on Day 2 of the drill (Thursday, Feb. 24). The focus group will be held remotely, with a Teams Meeting link available to participants all day. CAC members are cordially invited to join the focus group. For further details, please contact carrie-anne.atkins@opg.com.

Stan answered another Council question:

- *Do you assess the public attitude toward nuclear power?*

Some time before the false alert last year about an incident that was supposed to have taken place at Pickering Nuclear, we had conducted a public attitude survey. Following the false alert, we were concerned about the potential effect on public attitudes. So, we conducted another survey and found the community still felt positively about OPG.

Carrie-Anne said she could find out more about OPG public attitude surveys.

Topic #5: Public/Community Affairs Report

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager Corporate Relations and Communications, presented an update on OPG activities in the community:

- In December, OPG made its annual holiday donation to the Revera Bay Ridges Long Term Care Facility. The care packages included such items as slippers, mittens, hats and pajamas.
- OPG was the lead sponsor powering Windreach Farm's first Holiday Festival of Lights Drive-Thru event from Friday, Dec. 10 through Tuesday, Dec. 14. Festive booths with lots of lights were situated around the farm for the drive-thru.
- Throughout November and December, over 6,000 people experienced an outdoor, magical walk-through event at the Durham Region Kids Safety Village, located in Whitby.
- OPG employees at Pickering and Darlington generously support the Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) Food and Toy Drive through annual gates collections and gift donations. This year the employees donated the most toys and non-perishable goods in the history of OPG's campaign.
- On Dec. 14, OPG received a certificate of appreciation from the Pickering Rotary Club for partnering with the club last June on the Great Lakes cleanup initiative, which collected over 500 pounds of trash from the lake.
- On Jan. 21, OPG representatives will provide an update to the William Treaty First Nation on: submission to CNSC on a Cobalt-60 licence amendment; Darlington Waste Management Facility re-licencing application to the CNSC; and Pickering 25, Pickering End of Commercial Operations.
- Jan. 20, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) kicks off the Bring Back the Salmon program. OPG has been a leading partner of the program since 2011.
- Building on the success of last year's Virtual Power Kids program, plans are well underway for the return of the program this year. This past summer, the program reached 70,000 school kids and other members of the public over five weeks.
- On Dec. 1, 2021, OPG announced it will work together with GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy to deploy a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) at the Darlington new nuclear site, the only site in Canada currently licensed for a new nuclear build.

Dave noted that the CAC values the extensive work that OPG is doing in the community. He asked that the Council's appreciation be taken back to OPG.

Topic #6: General Questions

Dave asked if there were any further questions from the CAC.

A Council member noted that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is in consultation with Bruce and Ignace as potential host communities for a Deep Geological Repository for used nuclear fuel. His understanding is that this DGR will be in operation in 2040. He asked how OPG plans to move the used fuel rods out of the silos (where they are currently stored) and transport them to the DGR.

Carrie-Anne noted that the joint CAC meeting in April will focus on nuclear waste issues. OPG's Nuclear Sustainability Services will address the Council member's question at that time.

Topic #7: Concluding Remarks

Jon Franke thanked CAC members for participating in the meeting. He emphasized how much OPG values these meetings with the Council, which reinforce OPG's transparent relationship with the community.

Forthcoming Meetings

Pickering Community Advisory Council (Virtual)

Tuesday, February 15, 2022
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Joint Pickering/Darlington Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm