

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2022
Highlights

Site Update

Jon Franke talked about the operating status of the six active units at Pickering Nuclear, a visit with Pickering Councillor Christine Doody-Hamilton, and the safe implosion of the Lambton Generating Station, a legacy coal facility that was closed down in 2013.

Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability

Theresa Dekker presented an update on CCNS activities. She talked about the Centre benchmarking decommissioning with other organizations, CCNS funding of R&D projects, CCNS community activities and other matters.

Pickering Nuclear Station Update – Optimization and Safe Storage

Sara Irvine presented an update on the optimization and safe storage plan for Pickering Nuclear. She outlined why optimization of the Pickering station is needed, as there will be a significant and growing capacity deficit in the Ontario electricity system, beginning in 2023.

Public/Community Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on OPG's activities in the community. The Bring Back the Salmon program, the Virtual Power Kids program, and a curbside shrub giveaway event on April 23 were among the items mentioned.

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CAC:

Frank Dempsey
John Earley
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
John Miseresky
Cody Morrison
Tavis Nimmo
Dan Shire
John Simpson

Regrets:

Jill Adams
Donna Fabbro
Natalie Harder
Tracy MacCharles
Peter Ottensmeyer
Helen Shamsipour

OPG:

Christine Adams
Carrie-Anne Atkins
Theresa Dekker
Ken Fairservice
Jon Franke
Sara Irvine
Analiese St. Aubin

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Land Acknowledgment, Health & Safety Moment

Following a land acknowledgment, Senior Vice President Jon Franke noted a recent injury at Pickering Nuclear. A worker cutting an office ceiling tile was using a tool other than the one recommended for that job. In replacing the blade for that tool, the worker suffered a cut to his hand requiring stitches.

Regarding COVID, Jon noted that OPG continues to monitor cases in the province, including Durham Region. Employees who have been working at home return to the site on Feb. 28. Some management and Society-represented employees [the Society of Energy Professionals represents extended temporary employees] are participating in the alternative work location program and will be working from home up to two days a week.

OPG continues protocols such as masking and social distancing. These protocols will evolve at OPG as the province evolves. Unvaccinated office employees will participate in the at-home COVID testing program twice a week.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The minutes from the CAC meeting of Jan. 18, 2022 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Update

Jon Franke presented a site update:

- Units 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 are running at full power. Unit 5 remains in a maintenance outage. The Unit is being inspected to ensure it remains fit for service. As part of this inspection, one channel has been removed for safety inspection. It has been replaced with a new fuel channel.
- On Feb. 9, Carla Carmichael, Analiese St. Aubin and Jon met with Ward 2 Pickering Councillor Christine Doody-Hamilton. They provided a brief overview of Pickering Nuclear and the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability. They invited the Councillor to visit the station and CCNS for a tour.
- On Saturday, Feb. 12, The Lambton Generating Station, a legacy coal facility, was safely imploded. The 2,000-megawatt station had been operating for 40 years, when it was closed in 2013. OPG's closing down its coal plants was one the world's single largest climate actions.

Topic #4: Update: Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS)

Theresa Dekker, Vice President Nuclear Decommissioning Program, presented an update on CCNS activities. She noted that the Centre focuses on innovative solutions. Forty-one partners from industry, academia, Indigenous communities and community stakeholders have joined with the CCNS to collaborate on innovative solutions for the end of the nuclear lifecycle.

The CCNS was recently featured in Your City Magazine - Pickering.

One of the priorities this year is benchmarking with other nuclear power stations that are decommissioning to look at industry best practices that can be applied to OPG's planning. OPG has revised its Preliminary Decommissioning Plan and submitted it to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for review and comment. The revised plan includes, along with several other updates, the change in the shutdown schedule, with Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 being closed in 2025.

Regarding R&D projects, the CCNS has funded nine studies, among them laser cutting technology and alternative technologies for cooling used nuclear fuel. A Request for Market Information (RFMI) has been released on some of the new focus areas for 2022.

Among its community activities, the CCNS works with an Indigenous Advisory Council, which has expressed a desire for more education on nuclear and decommissioning matters. That Council has also expressed interest in employment opportunities for its community in the nuclear industry.

The CCNS has commissioned artists to provide paintings on Indigenous themes.

A CAC member asked if the CCNS Open House is still on. Theresa said that an open house is still something that the Centre is looking at. Analiese said, yes, an open house is still the Centre's plan.

Another CAC member said he was impressed with CCNS exploring how to cut concrete with laser.

Topic #5: Pickering Nuclear Station Update – Optimization and Safe Storage

Sara Irvine, Director Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, presented an update on the optimization and safe storage plan for Pickering Nuclear (Appendix). Sara was joined by Christine Adams, Senior Manager Projects, and Ken Fairservice, Senior Manager Projects.

Sara talked about the significant contribution to Ontario's electricity that Pickering Nuclear continues to make in a safe and sustainable way.

The Province of Ontario is supporting OPG's optimization plan to end the station's commercial operations in 2025. As the CAC knows, under the proposed plan, OPG will shut down Pickering Units 1 and 4 in 2024 and Units 5 to 8 in 2025. The plan requires approval from the CNSC.

Sara outlined why optimization is needed. She noted that the Independent Electricity System Operator is projecting a significant and growing capacity deficit on the Ontario system, beginning in 2023. The capacity deficit is due to extensive refurbishment programs on both Bruce and Darlington units as well as the planned shutdown of Pickering Units 1 and 4 in 2024.

Sara remarked that the safe, sequential shutdown of all six units at Pickering Nuclear will maximize the economic benefits of the generation station in the community.

She then presented in some detail OPG's considerable progress in implementing the many steps of the optimization plan.

She also talked about the safe storage activities that will follow the Pickering end of commercial operations.

In terms of what's next, Sara made two points:

- OPG is committed to ongoing and respectful Indigenous and community engagement related to the company's current and future nuclear operations.
- With respect to the licensing process for Pickering Optimization, OPG will continue to engage with its community members throughout the project.

Ken Fairservice and Christine Adams responded to Council questions:

- *At what point will Pickering no longer be producing Cobalt-60?*
Ken: With the closing of the last unit, Pickering will cease producing Cobalt-60, which is shifting to Darlington.
- *With the end of commercial operations, how will the exclusion zone around the plant be adjusted? How will the boundaries change over time?*
Ken: There are no plans to change the boundaries until fuel is removed from the reactor cores. The CNSC has to review our plans regarding the exclusion zone.
- *You mentioned a predictive effects assessment of safe storage activities. Can you give examples of such effects?*
Christine: Examples would be thermal effects in the lake and effects on radioactive dose to the public. These effects would be calculated through that assessment.

Topic #6: Public/Community Affairs Report

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

- On Jan. 20, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) launched its Bring Back the Salmon program. Virtual again this year, the 10-week program provides students of all ages an excellent educational opportunity through weekly videos and hands-on activities. OPG has been a leading partner of the program since 2011.
- Plans are well underway for this year's Virtual Power Kids program. Five weekly sessions will run during March and April. OPG is partnering with Driftwood Theatre, Earth Rangers, Scientists in School and other community organizations to bring students the opportunity to explore science, biodiversity, art and Indigenous traditions.
- Winter webinars will be held tonight (Feb. 15) and on March 10 with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).
- On April 23, the day after Earth Day, a curbside shrub giveaway will be held at the Pickering City Hall parking lot from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Distribution of the next Neighbours Newsletter is planned for around the end of March.
- Regarding refurbishment at Darlington Nuclear, Unit 1 has come off-line for refurbishment. This is the first time in the world that two units are off-line for refurbishment at the same time. Unit 2 came back on line in June 2020 after completion of its refurbishment.
- A back-up emergency power generator that served the Darlington site for 30 years is now beginning a second life as a teaching tool.
- OPG and GE Hitachi continue to cooperate on planning activities for construction of a small modular reactor (SMR) on the Darlington site. More details are available at www.opg.com. A Licence to Construct application to the CNSC will be completed by the end of 2022.
- OPG and partner organizations are participating in a multi-level emergency response exercise at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station on Feb. 23 – 25.

Carrie-Anne responded to Council questions:

- *When will OPG's application for a licence to construct an SMR be discussed by the CAC?*

Yes, that topic will be discussed, probably at the June CAC meeting.

- *Regarding the Exercise Unified Command emergency response drill that you just mentioned, I am participating in the virtual public communications focus group to be held on Day 2 of the exercise (Thursday, Feb. 24). Will the CAC be debriefed on this exercise?*

Yes, I can provide an update at the April meeting, and we can share the final report on the exercise with the Council.

Topic #7: Concluding Remarks

Jon Franke thanked Council members for taking the time to participate this evening. He expressed appreciation for the members' engagement and questions.

Next Meeting

Joint Pickering/Darlington Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

(Venue to be announced)