

DNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Highlights

Site Update

Richard Geofroy talked about the operating status of the Darlington station's four units. Units 2 and 4 are operating at full power. Units 1 and 3 are in a refurbishment outage, the first time anywhere that two units are being refurbished at the same time. Richard also talked about a three-day emergency response exercise based at Darlington coming up on Feb. 23 – 25. This exercise will involve government participants from the regional, provincial and federal levels.

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 an educational partnership with Courtice Secondary School were among the items mentioned.

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CAC:

Jim Boate
Janice Jones
Sheila Hall
Penny Smith

Regrets:

Shirley Crago
Jim Cryderman
Mary Ann Found
Brenda Metcalf
Mary Novak

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Ken Fairservice
Richard Geofroy
Sara Irvine
Padma Jeyakumar

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Land Acknowledgment, Health & Safety Moment

Following a land acknowledgment, Senior Vice President Richard Geofroy talked about how OPG intends to build upon its progress to date through the five goals of the company's Reconciliation Action Plan. He noted the focus of each goal and steps OPG will take to achieve the goals:

- Accountability: OPG will track progress with metrics and targets
- Relationship building: mutually beneficial relationships based on respect and understanding
- Reflecting diversity: look at potential suppliers in Indigenous communities; OPG has, and will continue to, hire Indigenous people
- Economics: advance economic reconciliation with Indigenous communities and businesses
- Environmental stewardship: will be a trusted partner with Indigenous communities

Regarding health and safety, Richard noted that those who have been working at home during the COVID pandemic will return to the office on Monday, Feb. 28. Such protocols as masking and physical distancing will remain in place for the time being. OPG will follow the guidance of public health authorities in deciding when to eliminate or change protocols.

Richard remarked that the site's record in maintaining safety in winter has been exemplary but, with the extra snow this year, there have been a number of minor injuries due to slips and falls. OPG has been reminding workers to focus on safety, not only on site walkways and parking lots but also at home. People are urged to be follow practices to prevent a heart attack while shoveling snow.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The CAC minutes from the meeting of Jan. 25, 2022 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Site Update

Richard Geofroy, Senior Vice President, Darlington Nuclear, presented a site update:

- Units 2 and 4 are operating at full power. Units 1 and 3 are in a refurbishment outage.
- The tritium removal facility is in an outage expected to last until August.
- We have held business planning sessions sharing plans for the future of Darlington, with 450 staff members attending each session. We've received positive feedback about these sessions.
- Unit 1 came off line on Feb. 15. This is the first time anywhere that two units are being refurbished at the same time. The Unit 3 refurbishment is about 55 percent complete; that is, roughly at the half way point. Workers are currently reinstalling calandria tubes. The installation of a new control system in Unit 3 is about one month behind schedule, but we still expect the refurbishment to be completed on schedule.
- A three-day emergency response exercise based at Darlington is coming up on Feb. 23 – 25. Exercise Unified Command will involve various governments at the regional, provincial and federal level. This is an important exercise. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will send observers. We will be conducting a self-critique following the exercise. The ultimate outcome will be to reinforce our emergency response plan.

- It's good news that more modern gas turbines are being installed at Darlington as emergency back-up generators. The retired unit will be used for skilled trades training purposes.

Regarding the upcoming emergency response exercise, Carrie-Anne Atkins noted that Day 2 will include a virtual public communications focus group. At least one member of the Pickering CAC will be in attendance as well as Sheila Hall from the Darlington CAC and five members of the Curve Lake First Nation.

Topic #4: Pickering Nuclear Station Update – Optimization and Safe Storage

Sara Irvine, Director Nuclear Regulatory Affairs and Ken Fairservice, Senior Manager Projects, presented an update on the optimization and safe storage plan for Pickering Nuclear (Appendix). They were joined by Padma Jeyakumar, Section 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.

Ken talked about what's next, making two main 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.

Noting the proposed shift in closing Pickering Units 5 – 8 from 2024 to 2025, a Council member asked if this meant the entire calendar year of 2025. Sara said the proposal was for sequential closing of Units 5 – 8 over the full calendar year of 2025. Should the CNSC not approve the proposal, all six units would shut down by the end of 2024.

Topic #5: 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, each 30 to 40 minutes in length, 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.
- The Darlington and Pickering sites will be involved in Courtice Secondary School's educational partnership (various virtual webinars as part of the Pollinating Partners program).
- In what is known as the Birds of a Feather project, Darlington Nuclear is planning a virtual tour of the site's nest-box route.
- A Winter Webinar was held on Feb. 15 with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). A second webinar will be held on March 10.
- 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.

Topic #6: General Questions and Comments

A Council member asked if the recent trucker convoy that crossed the country to Ottawa caused any delay in the Darlington refurbishment; that is, were there any interruptions in the supply chain? Is OPG prepared for potential disruptions in the future?

Richard said that OPG does monitor risks to the supply chain. The company has contingency plans for potential interruptions, for example early ordering to ensure adequate supplies. In fact, however, the convoy had no impact on the refurbishment supply chain.

Regarding CAC meetings, Richard asked if presentations to the Council were hitting the mark. Is there too much detail? Or not enough?

Council comments:

- “I like the format of the meetings. I miss the cookies and personal interaction, which you don’t get with virtual meetings.” (Richard said that we are getting close to being able to have in-person meetings.)
- “The meetings work for me. The information provided is relevant and timely.”
- “I wish more members were present. Much of the subject matter is still new to me. I’m looking forward to in-person meetings.” (Richard said that OPG can alter the conversation and provide more background where required.)
- “The meetings provide great information for sharing with the community. One advantage of virtual meetings is that they save time. I don’t have to drive from Uxbridge.”

Richard thanked those involved in the upcoming emergency response drill, and thanked all Council members for their participation in meetings.

Next Meeting

Joint Darlington/Pickering Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

(Venue to be announced)