

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Highlights

Site Update

Jon Franke presented an update on: the operating status of the site units and plant productivity; a planned outage of all six units for 30 days in October for a vacuum building inspection; and other matters.

CCNS Progress Report

Theresa Dekker presented a progress report for the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability. She talked about: CCNS collaboration with partners around decommissioning workforce demands; innovation; and community outreach. She remarked that the Centre is very focused on encouraging youth interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects.

OPG, Durham College and Ontario Tech University

Andy Owen presented a progress report on the OPG – Durham College – Ontario Tech Partnership. He discussed the objectives as well as the many benefits of the Partnership. Council members asked questions about the stigma attached to skilled trades and about other matters.

Public/Community Affairs Report

Carrie-Anne Atkins talked about recent and forthcoming OPG activities in the community. Curbside pick-ups of native, pollinating shrubs by the public; the summer Power on Tuesdays (formerly Tuesdays on the Trail) program; and tours of the Pickering site planned for the summer were among the items mentioned.

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CAC:

Donna Fabbro
Mary Gawan
Pat Mattson
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Dan Shire
John Simpson

Regrets:

Jill Adams
Frank Dempsey
John Earley
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Tracy MacCharles
Sean McCullough
Tavis Nimmo
Helen Shamsipour

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Theresa Dekker
Jon Franke
Sabrina Nestor
Andy Owen

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, Senior Vice President Jon Franke remarked that it looks like the COVID-19 pandemic is winding down, and that the current strain is less severe than the previous one. Following the guidelines of the province, OPG is beginning to relax the rules around health safety at plants. For example, at Pickering Nuclear, masks are no longer required at all times. The current rule is “stand up, mask up;” that is, while sitting at work or in the cafeteria, masks are no longer required.

Jon added that he is looking forward to his first in-person meeting with the Council.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

It was noted that member Tavis Nimmo’s name was left off the attendance list for the April meeting. With this correction, the Joint CAC Minutes of April 19, 2022, were approved.

Topic #3: Site Update

Jon Franke presented a site update:

- Unit 5, which had been in a planned outage, was back on line this past weekend; now all six units are operating at or near full power.
- A planned outage of all six units is scheduled for 30 days in October for a vacuum building inspection. (The vacuum building is one of the station’s safety systems that would be available in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident. The vacuum building can contain and condense any steam that may be released into the reactor building. The vacuum building minimizes any radiological releases by virtue of its very large volume, thick concrete structure and maintained negative pressure.)
- OPG is working with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to minimize the time off-line required for vacuum building inspection. New inspection technologies have been recognized by the CNSC.
- The spring outages at Pickering Nuclear, which included inspections of reactor fitness for service through 2025, went well.

Jon responded to Council questions:

- *Are planned outages, including the vacuum building outage planned for October, being coordinated with the Darlington and Bruce Power stations to ensure adequacy of energy supplies?*

Yes, these are coordinated through the province's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

- *What is the IESO doing regarding 2025 when Pickering is phasing out operations?*

The IESO has a set of rules to follow to make sure sufficient capacity is maintained during the de-commissioning and refurbishment of power plants in Ontario. The IESO's calling for the extension of the operation of Pickering Units 5 to 8 to 2025 is an example of those rules being applied. That extension continues to be evaluated.

Topic #4: CCNS Progress Report

Theresa Dekker, Vice President Nuclear Decommissioning Program, presented a progress report by the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability (CNSS) (Appendix 1).

The Centre supports OPG's mission to achieve a net-zero economy by developing innovative and sustainable plans for the end of the nuclear lifecycle. It brings together industry, community partners and homegrown talent to create innovative, long-term solutions.

Theresa talked about: CCNS collaboration with partners around decommissioning workforce demands; innovation; and community outreach. She remarked that the Centre is very focused on encouraging youth interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects from kindergarten through university.

Theresa responded to Council questions:

- *I understand that the membership of the CCNS is made up of a number of organizations, but are there individual members?*

No, we don't have individual members now.

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy remarked that, because of its involvement in innovation, the CCNS is going to draw the interest of people well beyond vendors and other organizations. Theresa said that the Centre can look at how individuals might fit into CCNS community partners.

- *You mentioned that CCNS representatives visited various nuclear sites. How large were these sites?*

A lot them had just two or three units. None were as large as Pickering, but we pick up important information from facilities of all sizes.

Topic #5: OPG, Durham College and Ontario Tech University Partnership

Andy Owen, Vice President Security and Emergency Services, presented a progress report on the Partnership between OPG, Durham College and Ontario Tech University (Appendix 2). Established in 2005, the Partnership was recently renewed for a five-year period (2022 – 2026).

Andy discussed the Partnership Objectives:

1. Attracting diverse people to the power industry and advancing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives.
2. Develop and maintain programs to prepare people for initial hire.
3. Partner in advancing research.
4. Develop and maintain continuing education programs for OPG staff.
5. Support staff/faculty exchanges to facilitate professional development and support curriculum and program development.
6. Sharing of training materials to develop and deliver programs to the broader industry.

He also presented highlights of the many benefits of the Partnership. He noted that OPG encourages programs offered at Durham College and Ontario Tech University that are aligned to the skills currently needed at OPG and other industry settings. A good example of tech training resources is the boiler lab at Durham College, which supports training for millwright technicians.

As well, programs have been established at Durham College that upskill/reskill current OPG staff.

For university lectures, there are staff exchanges between OPG and Ontario Tech University.

Finally, Andy talked about the major investment in the Region of Durham that OPG has made since 2005 through the Partnership and further investment the company will make with the renewal of the Partnership to 2026.

Andy responded to Council questions:

- *What quantity of students are getting into skilled trades training at Durham College?*

In my tours of the college, I got the impression that participation in these training programs is high, but I will have to get back to you on numbers. Students in these programs are aiming to work in a broad range of industries, including nuclear.

- *Is there a stigma about skilled trades?*
Yes, there is a stigma, one that is broader than the nuclear industry. I think it stems from the period when the province was promoting university education. Skilled trades came to be devalued in many circles.
- *I participated in a career symposium for high school students. Four areas were discussed, including nuclear. About 75 percent of the students expressed interest in the nuclear industry. A hopeful sign.*

Topic #6: Public/Community Affairs Report

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

- On April 23, the Pickering and Darlington sites participated in a community curbside pickup of native, pollinating shrubs, with 300 plants being picked up at each site. Jon Franke and his team participated in that outreach. Over the years, OPG has been involved in the planting of more than eight million trees in Ontario.
- The first week of May was both Mental Health Week and Emergency Preparedness Week. A speaker on mental health was broadcast across OPG. Regarding emergency preparedness, a shout-out to the Pickering Nuclear Emergency Planning team.
- OPG's annual pollinating effort will take place on May 28.
- Over the summer, OPG's Power on Tuesdays program (formerly Tuesdays on the Trail) will offer a hybrid model, featuring in-person and virtual options.
- Tours at Darlington last month included a tour around the new build site on April 22 and an Ontario Energy Board tour on April 26.
- Tours of the Pickering site this summer will include a CNSC tour on June 18.
- At the end of April, Ontario Power Generation and the Tennessee Valley Authority launched a pioneering partnership to develop small modular reactors (SMRs) in Canada and the USA.
- In April, Bruce Power and OPG announced a refurbishment cooperation program to manage skilled trades access for the two companies.
- The refurbishment of Units 1 and 3 at Darlington are 10 days ahead of schedule.

- Last fall, OPG announced a three-phase program to removed phragmites, an invasive species, from Hydro Marsh. Phase 2 will begin in September. More details to come at the June CAC meeting.

Topic #7: CAC Report to the Community

Dave announced that a CAC Report to the Community is planned for the fall. The last CAC Report was enclosed with the Pickering Neighbours Newsletter distributed in early 2018. The next report will combine Pickering and Darlington information, with topics to be determined by each of the two Councils. The CACs will then work with Hardy Stevenson and Associates to develop the articles.

It was agreed that a PDF of the 2018 report would be distributed to the CACs to give them a sense of what the Report could look like, and the 2022 report would be discussed at forthcoming CAC meetings.

Topic #8: CAC Member to Speak at Canadian Nuclear Society

Council member Peter Ottensmeyer said that he will be giving a 15-minutes talk at the CNS Annual Conference in early June. Entitled The Compleat Nuclear Energy—missed, the talk focuses on fuel utilization by different SMRs with and without recycling.

Interested CAC members can access the recording through this link:

https://xcdzoom.s3.amazonaws.com/streamed_jrk8n94xh_seekable.webm_new.mp4?nocache=220511135047.

Topic #9: Concluding Remarks

Jon Franke announced a new member of the Pickering Nuclear management team. Emily Tarle will be the new Site Deputy Vice President.

Jon thanked Council members for their time.

Topic #10: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 3.

Next Meeting

Joint Pickering and Darlington Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Virtual Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm