

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022
Highlights

Refreshing the Community Advisory Council

Dave Hardy announced that, starting in 2023, the CAC will have fewer meetings a year, but they will be more in-depth. He and Francis Gillis will be calling Council members to get their input on recruiting new members and fostering more engagement with the CAC.

Site Update

Jon Franke talked about the forthcoming planned Vacuum Building Outage, which will require the temporary outage of all six units at the station. He also talked about: recent OPG conferences with the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI), the leading voice of the nuclear supply chain; and Pickering Nuclear's recent achievement of over 100 days of continuous service by all six units.

Environmental Monitoring Program Report

Lindsay Parks presented the 2021 results of OPG's Pickering and Darlington Environmental Monitoring Programs. Annual public radiation doses resulting from PN and DN operations were 0.2 percent of the annual regulatory limit for PN and less than 0.1 percent of the annual regulatory limit for DN. These doses are less than 0.1 percent of natural background radiation.

Groundwater Monitoring Program Results

Raphael McCalla presented the 2021 Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Groundwater Monitoring Program results. Groundwater data collected from key areas have remained stable, indicating consistent environmental performance. There were no indications of off-site impacts from PN and DN groundwater.

Pickering Public/Community Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins reviewed OPG activities in the community over the summer and talked about forthcoming events. Among the items mentioned: the very successful Tuesdays on the Trail program; the re-opening of the Pickering and Darlington information centres; for the first time in three years, the public will be invited to participate in tree planting in a public park.

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CAC:

Pat Mattson
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Dan Shire
John Simpson

Regrets:

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

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Jon Franke
Raphael McCalla
Lindsay Parks
Vinroy Thorpe

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, Senior Vice President Jon Franke noted that Pickering Nuclear has relaxed some of its COVID-19 protocols, for example reducing mask requirements. He also noted the relatively low incidence level of COVID at the plant, where currently there are only about 10 cases in the workforce. He added that vaccines are reducing the severity of the cases that do occur. That said, the arrival of flu season on top of the risk of COVID highlights the importance of such practices as hand washing and testing for COVID-19 as soon as one experiences symptoms.

Topic #2: Indigenous Relations Staff

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager Corporate Relations and Communications, announced two new members of the Indigenous Relations staff:

- Trisha Cowie joined the OPG Indigenous Relations group this summer. Trisha will be supporting Indigenous relations for the Pickering and Darlington sites. A member of the Hiawatha First Nation, she has been practicing law for 13 years.
- Skye Anderson is joining the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS). Skye completed Indigenous Studies at Trent University. Seven years ago, she worked on the Indigenous Display at Darlington.

Topic #3: Review of Minutes

The minutes from the Joint Community Advisory Council meeting of June 21, 2022, were approved without changes.

Topic #4: Refreshing the Community Advisory Council

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy noted that he had been in discussions with OPG over the summer, and that a number of changes to the CAC process had been agreed upon.

Starting in 2023, each of the CACs will now meet only five times a year, but each meeting will be more in-depth. In-person meetings will begin in January and will include dinner and time for informal chat among participants.

There is also the possibility of a joint Pickering/Darlington CAC in-person meeting this coming December.

Members indicated they were looking forward to in-person sessions.

In 2023, the CAC meetings will occur in the same months as those of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC), with the addition of a joint meeting in December. Dave Hardy said that he and Francis Gillis will poll CAC members on their thoughts about how to get stronger engagement in the Council and their suggestions regarding new members. Dave noted that there are a lot of active organizations in Durham Region, from which he has derived a list of people we can start reaching out to.

Topic #5: Site Update

Jon Franke, Senior Vice President Pickering Nuclear, presented a site update:

- The Vacuum Building outage is coming up. While Unit 1 is already in a planned outage, all other units will be shut down to enable inspections inside the Vacuum Building. Pickering Nuclear provides 14 percent of electric power in Ontario. OPG staff have been working for well over a year to prepare for such a significant outage.
- On Sept. 14, at the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS), the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI), hosted an in-person workshop discussing the future of OPG.
- On Sept. 15, at the Pickering Learning Centre, OCNI and OPG hosted the 2022 Supplier Day. OCNI is the leading voice of the nuclear supply chain.
- The recent planned outage of Unit 1 marked over 100 days of continuous service by all six units at Pickering Nuclear. This unprecedented achievement is the result of the quality of work completed by management and employees over the years.

Dave congratulated Pickering Nuclear on behalf of the Council.

Topic #6: Environmental Monitoring Program Report

Lindsay Parks, Environmental Advisor, Environmental Health and Safety, presented the 2021 results of OPG's Pickering and Darlington Environmental Monitoring Programs (Appendix 1).

Key Points:

- Annual public doses resulting from PN and DN operations were 2.0 microsieverts and 0.6 microsieverts respectively; that is, 0.2 percent of the annual regulatory limit for PN and less than 0.1 percent of the annual regulatory limit for DN.

- Station radiological emissions remained at a very small fraction of their respective Derived Release Limits (DRLs). (DRLs refer to the annual regulatory dose limit for a member of the public.)
- Dose calculations and annual report were reviewed and verified by an independent third party.
- 2021 EMP report was submitted to the CNSC on April 25, 2022 and is available on www.opg.com.

Jon Franke and Raphael McCalla responded to Council questions:

- *In the charts showing annual emissions of tritium to air, there is a reference to ten to the power of fourteen becquerels (10^{14} Bq) for the year 2021. That figure seems kind of scary. Wouldn't the curie equivalent (which would be a far lower number) be better for the public?*

Jon: I agree the use of curies would be better for the public, but the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) requires us to use becquerels.

- *Could you use both measures?*

Jon: That is a suggestion I can bring up for discussion within OPG. It's likely the general public would interpret the curie figure better.

Lindsay undertook to take this suggestion back to OPG for discussion.

Dave Hardy remarked that this discussion could be relevant to the CAC Report to the Community.

- *What is the difference between impingement and entrainment?*

Jon: Impingement is when larger fish are caught in the plant's intake screens. Entrainment is when eggs or larvae make their way through the screens into the system, where some of them don't survive.

- *What is the cooling water flow rate?*

Jon: A ballpark figure would be 28 cubic metres per minute. We can get specific numbers back to you. (See Appendix A on page 7.)

- *I like that exposure chart. Will the monitoring continue after the close of operations in 2025?*

Jon: Yes, monitoring will continue as is until the units are defueled and dewatered. After that, the monitoring process will be moderated in consultation with the regulator.

Raphael: The Pickering plant will be monitored for a long time to come. We will need a specific licence for that longer term monitoring.

Topic #7: Groundwater Monitoring Program Report

Raphael McCalla, Director Environment Operations Support, presented the 2021 Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Groundwater Monitoring Program results (Appendix 2). Key points:

- For both Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear, the groundwater flow patterns remain consistent with original interpretations.
- Groundwater data collected from key areas remained stable, which indicate consistent environmental performance.
- There were no indications of off-site impacts from PN and DN groundwater.

Raphael responded to Council questions:

- *You mentioned that the blue dots in the slides refer to groundwater sampling locations. Why are there blue dots on the roofs of the units?*
Those dots are not meant to reference the roofs; they just indicate that certain monitoring wells in the ground are around the various structures.
- *You talked about the very slow migration of tritium on the site, and that there is no migration off-site. What explains the slow migration?*
There are structures in place that are an impediment to the rate of water flow. Also, the geological nature of the land slows the rate of water flow.

Topic #8: Pickering Public/Community Affairs

Carrie-Anne reviewed summer activities in the community and talked about forthcoming events:

- The Pickering and Darlington Tuesdays on the Trail program was very successful. 1200 community members participated over the summer. The program was fully booked in record time.
- The Information Centres at Pickering and Darlington re-opened to the public on July 4th. Since that date, there have been five to 10 walk-ins a week at each centre.
- We have a busy fall ahead. An open house is planned for Pickering and for Darlington. In 2019, before the COVID lockdowns, there were at total of 3,000 visitors to the open houses.
- The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as “Orange Shirt Day,” is marked on September 30th.

- For the past three years, OPG in partnership with the City of Pickering and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, has organized a program where members of the public can pick up trees for planting on their own property. This year there will be planting of 300 trees in a public park.
- In early October, the public will be invited to visit Pickering Nuclear's pollinating garden and to tour the Pickering Simulator.
- On Wednesday, Sept. 28th, OPG and the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Sustainability (CCNS) will hold a conference in the Niagara Region with Women in Nuclear. There will be CCNS presentations.

Topic #9: CAC Report to the Community

There was an initial discussion of a new issue of the CAC Report to the Community, which will be inserted into a forthcoming issue of the Neighbours Newsletter. Council members agreed that it was time for a new Report. We are aiming for publication in the first quarter of 2023.

Members reviewed a long list of potential topics and narrowed it down to three or four key articles. Dave noted that he and Francis will get further feedback from Council members who were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

A first draft of the Report will be sent to Council members over the coming months.

Topic #10: Concluding Remarks

Jon Franke thanked Council members for their discussion this evening. He noted that the meeting went longer than usual, but the added value of CAC input made the extra effort worth it.

Next Meeting

Joint Pickering and Darlington Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Virtual Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Appendix A:

