

DNGS Community Advisory Council
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 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. Members shared their ideas about the operations of the CAC and talked about how they communicate information from Council meetings back to their contacts in the community.

Site Update

Allan Grace talked about: the operating status of the four units at Darlington, two on line and two in refurbishment; the station's coming foray into isotope production for medical imaging purposes; a very successful open house at the station; a third-party review of the plant in October; and other items.

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 Report

Vinroy Thorpe presented the 2021 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 DN groundwater.

Public/Community Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins talked about OPG's recent and forthcoming activities in the community. Among the items mentioned: re-opening the Information Centres at Darlington and Pickering on July 4; a very successful Tuesdays on the Trail program during the summer; OPG's potassium iodide (KI) pill campaign.

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CAC:

Jim Boate
Sheila Hall
Mary Novak
Penny Smith

Regrets:

Shirley Crago
Jim Cryderman
Mary Ann Found
Janice Jones
Brenda Metcalf

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Allan Grace
Raphael McCalla
Lindsay Parks
Vinroy Thorpe

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Land Acknowledgment, Health & Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, Allan Grace, Director of Operations and Maintenance at Darlington, presented a health and safety moment. He remarked that the return of kids to school and the shorter days of autumn highlighted the need for careful driving.

Allan noted that, at Darlington, the number of COVID cases in the workforce is very small, around 10 to 15. Most COVID-related protocols have been relaxed, in line with provincial guidelines.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The minutes from the joint Darlington/Pickering CAC meeting of June 21, 2022, were approved without changes.

Topic #3: 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.

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.

Council members agreed with the concept of fewer meetings per year, but with an earlier start time that would include dinner. It was generally agreed that 4 pm to 7:30 pm was a good timeframe.

Council members commented about meeting discussions and the concerns of their contacts in the community:

- “I’m all for longer meetings, but there is a lot of information shared at meetings. Would we be able to absorb it all?” (Dave remarked that we would like to get additional Council members. Plant tours would go a long way to clarifying the kind of information shared at meetings, especially for new members.)
- “What does OPG want from Council members?” (Dave said that OPG’s needs are a consideration, but first he wanted to hear about CAC needs.)
- “It’s great to hear about safety issues and what’s going on at the plant. The general public don’t see the plant because it’s behind a berm. I share OPG videos on social media with groups in our area. They want to know about SMRs and the impact on jobs in our area. Periodically, I get asked about KI pills. I filter the information I hear at Council meetings back to my contacts in the community.”
- “I bring the information I hear at meetings back to the business community. I share news of where the nuclear industry is going. I talk about how it’s more than just producing electricity. Safety is a key public concern, and I can reassure them

on that. I am a huge proponent of OPG presenters simplifying information so it can be communicated to the community.”

- “When I was a Councillor for Clarington, I attended CAC meetings regularly and brought back information to the Clarington Council. I agree that we should reach out to the broader community for new members. It is very important to engage CAC members in more hands-on activity so they can comfortably answer basic questions from their contacts in the community. I’m also interested in the forthcoming WANO evaluation and their comments on the SMR project and the launch of isotope production at Darlington.”

Dave said that, in January, we will look at the CAC Terms of Reference and consider what needs changing. He added that, over the coming weeks, he and Francis Gillis will be phoning Council members and asking what are the top-of-mind concerns are among groups you’re interacting with. What are your neighbours saying to you about OPG?

Dave and Francis will be asking about different formats that Council meetings could take, e.g., workshops.

Dave said that the CAC needs new members, which will help to refresh the Council. He mentioned that he has a list of community organizations that we can recruit new members from. Council members may wish to add to this list.

Additional Council comments:

- “It’s important to have municipal and regional representatives on the CAC, so they can share information with their communities.”
- “When it’s available, I’d like to review your list of community groups.”
- “When recruiting new members, it’s important that they commit to attending meetings. Members should attend at least 75 percent of meetings.”

Topic #4: Site Update

Allan Grace, Director Operations and Maintenance, presented a site update:

- Units 2 and 4 are operating at or near full power. Units 3 and 1 are in refurbishment. The refurbishment of Unit 3 is over 80 percent complete, about 60 days ahead of schedule. Unit 3 is expected to be back on line around the middle of next year. Unit 1 is about a quarter of the way through refurbishment, which is also going well.
- Units 2 and 4 have reached a record 550 sequential days of operation.

- New medical imaging equipment has been installed at Darlington. This fall, the station will make its first foray into isotope production.
- Saturday, Sept. 24, was a big day at Darlington, the first open house at the station since 2019. When the Information Centre doors opened at 10 a.m., it looked like a boxing day sale. There must have been thousands in attendance over the course of the day. Among the many activities were a large SMR demonstration and a viewing of the refurbishment mock-up. The fire trucks were particularly popular.
- On Thursday, Sept. 15, we had the pleasure of coming together with station and refurbishment staff, and our vendor partners, to celebrate the annual Teamwork and Employee Recognition Day. The team cleaned the plant and took part in housekeeping activities, removing over 15 bags of garbage from unzoned areas and four large bins of wood from the station.
- The Darlington team is busy preparing for the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) visit in October. WANO determines excellence when it comes to nuclear plant performance across the world. Excellence means we are performing at the highest possible levels of operational safety and reliability standards.
- Last week E.S. Fox arrived at Darlington with equipment and materials to begin site preparations for OPG's Small Modular Reactor project. An initial part of this work involves clearing and grubbing vegetation on Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) lands.

Allan responded to Council questions:

- *When will Unit 3 be coming back on line?*
Around July of 2023 according to the current schedule.
- *Is the new OPG head office at Darlington moving forward? People are very curious about that.*
The plan is still moving forward. It is still on track. Carrie-Anne can bring details back.

Dave asked Allan to pass along the CAC's congratulations to Darlington on its good refurbishment performance.

Topic #5: Environmental Monitoring Program Report

Lindsay Parks, Environmental Advisor, Environmental Health and Safety, presented the 2021 Results of OPG's Pickering and Darlington Environmental Monitoring reports (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.

Lindsay, and Raphael McCalla, Director Environment Operations Support, responded to Council questions:

- *There's a very large apple orchard in Clarington. Do you sample locations like that?*

Lindsay: Yes, apples and other fruit are included in our sampling.

- *Why is the Pickering public dose about three times higher than the Darlington one?*

Raphael: Differences in the surrounding areas of the stations would account for that. As well, Pickering is the larger plant. But both doses are extremely low.

Topic #6: Groundwater Monitoring Program Report

Vinroy Thorpe, Assistant Environmental Advisor, presented the 2021 Darlington Nuclear Groundwater Monitoring Program results (Appendix 2).

Key points:

- Groundwater flow patterns at Darlington Nuclear remain consistent with original interpretations.

- Groundwater data collected from key areas remained stable, which indicates consistent environmental performance.
- There were no indications of off-site impacts from DN groundwater.

Topic #7: Public/Community Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager Corporate Relations and Communications, talked about OPG's recent and forthcoming activities in the community:

- Both Darlington and Pickering stations opened their Information Centres to the public on July 4.
- The Tuesdays on the Trail program, which ran during July and August, was a great success at both Darlington and Pickering, with a total of 1200 community members participating. People could participate in person or on line. Most chose the in-person option.
- It was a very busy summer for OPG in the community. The Pickering Public Library Reading Club was one of the many activities that OPG was involved in.
- On Sept. 10, many people attended the annual monarch wing tagging event.
- This Saturday, Oct.1, is Scouting Development Day. One of the highlights of the day is distribution of pollinating plants.
- On Sept. 19, OPG launched its potassium iodide (KI) pill campaign, which publicizes facts about the pills, which are being sent to all households within 10 kilometres of each of the Darlington and Pickering stations. On the web, OPG is also offering the pills to anyone within 50 kilometres of the plants.
- On Nov. 7 – 8, the Darlington and Pickering stations will conduct their annual siren testing.
- On Sept. 26, OPG and Microsoft announced a Canada-first strategic partnership aimed at tackling climate change and driving sustainable growth across Ontario. ([Media release > OPG and Microsoft announce strategic partnership to power a Net-Zero future for Ontario - OPG](#))

Carrie-Anne responded to a Council question:

- *There is a committee looking at the Clarington Waterfront Strategy Plan. This refers to the waterfront from the Oshawa border to Hope Township. Is there a representative from Darlington Nuclear on that committee?*

By the end of the meeting, Carrie-Anne was able to confirm that Darlington did have a representative on the committee.

Topic #8: 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 reviewed a long list of potential topics and narrowed it down to a few topics that they considered particularly important. They also suggested several additional topics.

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 #9: Concluding Remarks

A Council member remarked that it was reassuring to be informed about the safety of operations at Darlington. She was also pleased to hear about developments in the plan to move the OPG head office to a new extension at Darlington.

Another member remarked that this meeting had been particularly informative.

Allan thanked Council members for their good questions and dialogue. He also thanked the presenters for an excellent job.

He was surprised about the level of interest in the head office move. It is helpful to know what people in the community are curious about, he said.

"It was a great session," Allan said. "I learned a lot this evening. I hope CAC members did as well."

Next Meeting

Joint Darlington and Pickering Community Advisory Councils

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Virtual Meeting

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

