

**DNGS Community Advisory Council
Darlington Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Highlights**

Report on CAC Presentation to the CNSC

Dave Hardy reported that two members presented a CAC intervention letter to a CNSC public hearing in January. The subject was the applicability of OPG's 2012 Environmental Assessment of the Darlington New Nuclear Project to the proposed small modular reactor (SMR) to be built on the site. Dave noted that the CAC is increasing its involvement in CNSC hearings.

Site Update

Allan Grace talked about the operating status of the four reactors at Darlington Nuclear, two of which are off-line for refurbishment. He also mentioned a peer review of the station and the completion, on time and on budget, of early site preparation for the SMR to be constructed at Darlington.

Tour of Reactor Mock-up

Josh Guin led CAC members on a tour of Darlington's reactor mock-up. This is a full-scale nuclear reactor mock-up where refurbishment workers practice necessary tasks before performing them at the plant.

DNNP Update

Jesara Holla presented an update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project. She noted that a total of four SMR units are planned for the site, with the first unit to be completed by the end of 2028. Jesara talked about OPG's many activities engaging the public about the SMR project.

Community/Public Affairs Update

Lindsay Hamilton talked about: this year's OPG March Break Blitz activities in the community; engaging elementary school students in the Bring Back the Salmon program; the Electrifying Education program for Durham Region schools; and the re-launch of OPG's corporate citizenship program, now known as The Power for Change Project.

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CAC:

Jim Boate
Cara Gregory
Bethany Dainton
Mary Novak (via Zoom)
Heather Reid
Penny Smith
Stacy Wanamaker
Bonnie Wrightman

Regrets:

Sami Elhajjeh
Sheila Hall
Jennifer O'Meara
Pat Pingle

OPG:

Jackie Crandles
Allan Grace
Josh Guin
Lindsay Hamilton
Jesara Holla

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs, talked about the need to prioritize mental health, which impacts performance and overall wellbeing. She mentioned maintaining a work-life balance, keeping in good physical condition and setting reasonable goals as some of the ways to care for your mental health. She also suggested seeking resources to address mental health issues (employee assistance programs, counselling services and online resources).

Lindsay announced the recent passing of former Council member Jim Cryderman. Jim was a dedicated member of the CAC and involved in many other community activities. OPG will erect a memorial structure on site to honour Jim's memory.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

The minutes from the CAC meeting of Jan. 30 were approved without changes.

Topic #3: Report on CAC Presentation to the CNSC

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy noted that he, Robert Rock and Heather Reid, presented the CAC intervention letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearing in January. The subject was the applicability of OPG's 2012 Environmental Assessment of the Darlington New Nuclear Project to the proposed small modular reactor (SMR) to be built on the site. He asked Heather to talk about her experience.

Heather noted that the CAC presenters received only a few questions from the Commissioners compared to other presenters. She was impressed with how the Commissioners and OPG ensured that all questions were answered thoroughly.

Dave noted that several Commissioners focused a lot of time on the protection of endangered species. They also noted that OPG had duly consulted with Indigenous communities in completing its Environmental Assessment.

Heather said she would be happy to present to a CNSC hearing again.

Dave mentioned that the Pickering CAC is submitting an intervention to the CNSC regarding a two-year extension of its operating licence for Pickering Units 5 to 8 (to the end of 2026) and that the Darlington CAC will be looking at supporting OPG's request for a licence to construct the SMR.

Ontario Tech University is planning a mock reactor on their campus. They will be taking that proposal to the CNSC, and may be asking for CAC intervention.

So, the role of the CAC is changing to an increased involvement in CNSC hearings.

Topic #4: NWMO News

As Council members know, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization is mandated to find a host community for the long-term storage of used nuclear fuel. Dave noted that the Municipality of South Bruce has expressed interest in hosting a facility for such long-

term storage. The Township of Ignace has also expressed an interest. They have signed a Hosting Agreement and their support is pending approval of the community. Their partner, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in the North West Ontario area is also considering whether to support the Adaptive Phase Management facility. Dave indicated that there is a good chance of a positive expression of willingness in the North West.

Joe Gaboury, Director Indigenous Engagement at NWMO, should be asked to come back to the CAC in the fall with an update on this development.

Topic #5: Site Update

Senior Vice President Allan Grace presented a site update:

- The parking situation at Darlington is getting better. March was probably the busiest month ever in terms of site parking.
- Unit 1 is in the latter part of its refurbishment. It will take a week to 10 days to reload the unit with new fuel bundles.
- Unit 2 is in the final couple of weeks of its planned outage.
- The planned outage of Unit 3 was recently completed. It will be operating at full power as of this weekend.
- Unit 4 is still in refurbishment and continues to track on schedule to complete its refurbishment in 2026.
- The World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) is providing an independent peer review of the station this week.
- On Feb. 15, the Darlington New Nuclear Project completed infrastructure components of site preparation for the construction of a Small Modular Reactor. This early site preparation work was completed on time and on budget.

A Council member asked where the two units in refurbishment are at in the process.

Josh Guin noted that the Unit 4 early finish targeted date is January 2026. The Unit 1 early finish targeted date is October 2024. These dates are OPG internal stretch target dates.

OPG public/external commitment dates remain unchanged: Unit 4 as Q4 2026 and Unit 1 as Q2 2025.

Josh noted that, out of the 50 million manhours spent on the Darlington refurbishment to date, there has been one lost-time incident.

He added that all the lessons learned from the Darlington refurbishment are being forwarded to Pickering and to Bruce Power.

Allan noted that, at Bruce, a second unit is off line for refurbishment.

Topic #6: Tour of Reactor Mock-up

Josh Guin, Project Director Nuclear Refurbishment, led CAC members on a tour of Darlington's reactor mock-up. This is a full-scale nuclear reactor mock-up where refurbishment workers practice necessary tasks in a controlled and realistic environment prior to performing them at the plant. The mock-up creates huge efficiencies in the actual refurbishment work.

Council members were fascinated by the tour, which gave them a realistic sense of a reactor's structure.

Topic #7: DNNP Update

Jesara Holla, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs and DNNP and New Nuclear Growth, presented an update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project (Appendix 1).

She reviewed communications activities in 2023 around the Darlington New Nuclear Project. Among these activities were OPG hosting three, well-attended community information sessions. There were energy literacy sessions for Durham Region schools, which featured OPG's computer dog, Spot. And OPG engaged with more than 10,000 members of the public at 33 community events and two project kiosks. So, 2023 was an intensive time in terms of public engagement.

As noted by Allan Grace, early site preparation work for the SMR was completed in February, on time and on budget. The outside contractor now has a couple of more years of site preparation work.

Jesara talked about public engagement plans for 2024, including pop-up project kiosks at the South Courtice Arena, Electrifying Education presentations and summer community events. Two public information sessions are to be held in May (for information go to <https://www.opg.com/projects-services/projects/nuclear/smr/darlington-smr/>)

She noted that a CNSC hearing on a Licence to Construct will take place in the fall.

Jesara presented a Darlington New Nuclear Roadmap, from 2023 to 2036. She noted that four SMRs are planned. The first SMR is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2028 and on line in 2029. The second, third and fourth SMRs are scheduled to be in operation by 2036.

Jesara and Allan responded to Council questions:

- *Will an administration building for the SMR be constructed?*
Jesara: There will be construction trailers but also a permanent building on the site.
- *How does the DNNP roadmap line up with government plans for adequate energy supply in the coming years?*
Jesara: We are working hand-in-hand with the Government of Ontario to look at how refurbishments and SMR construction interact with energy supply. We are also considering the availability of other sources to meet electricity demand.
Allan: More work over and above current plans needs to be done to ensure electricity demand is met in the future.
- *Good. I am reassured that government is participating in the energy supply issue. I would like to hear more about this in future meetings.*
- *Are you looking at hydrogen fuel cells as a clean source of energy?*
Allan: Yes, OPG subsidiaries are looking at hydrogen fuel opportunities.

Topic #8: Community Update

Lindsay presented an update on OPG activities in the community:

- This year's March Break Blitz program, provided by Darlington and Pickering Stakeholder Relations, featured a series of free community skates and swims throughout Durham Region. Over 1,400 community members attended throughout the break.
- Jesara noted that the DNNP sponsored two public skates in March at the Orono and Newcastle arenas. The DNNP plans to sponsor a skate or swim for a local community every month.

Lindsay mentioned other events:

- On Friday, March 22nd, as part of the Bring Back the Salmon program, over 40 students from Vincent Massey Elementary School tuned in virtually to receive an update about the salmon hatchery at Darlington. On May 23rd, students will gather on the shoreline of Bowmanville Creek to release the salmon fry.

- OPG's recently launched Electrifying Education program that is open to any teacher in Durham Region. The workshop, which is offered at the Darlington and Pickering information centres, includes a presentation by OPG on nuclear power, a quiz and—something everybody loves—a special visit from Spot the robot dog. Over the first four visits in February and March (two at Pickering and two at Darlington) over 800 students attended.

Lindsay then talked about how OPG has renewed and updated its corporate citizenship program, now known as The Power for Change Project (Appendix 2). She talked about the program's new Environmental, Social and Governance strategy and why the strategy was updated. The pillars of the renewed program are:

1. Protecting the Planet
2. Advancing Reconciliation
3. Supporting Strong Communities
4. Empowering the Next Generation

Lindsay also talked about a simplified funding applications process from community organizations seeking funding.

Jesara added that the program is always looking to partner with new community organizations.

Topic #9: Concluding Remarks

Dave thanked Josh for guiding the CAC around the reactor mock-up.

Allan thanked CAC members for their engagement. He described the tour as a great experience. He expressed appreciation for Council members' curiosity. "Keep asking us probing questions," he said.

Next Meeting

Darlington Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, June 18, 2024
4 pm – 7 pm