

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Ontario Power Generation
889 Brock Road, Pickering
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
Highlights

Site Update

Dave Rogers presented an update on the operating status of the units at Pickering Nuclear.

PWMF Tour

CAC members toured the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF). They found the tour very informative.

Community Update

Analiene St. Aubin presented an update on OPG activities in the community. Tree planting in Alex Robertson Park, Bowl for Kids' Sake, the Steps for Life awareness walk and Tuesdays on the Trail were among the items mentioned.

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CAC:

Craig Bamford
Frank Dempsey
Pat Mattson
Cody Morrison
Peter Ottensmeyer
Dan Shire
John Simpson
Nicholas (Nick) West

Regrets:

Pamela (Pam) Collins
Nicholas (Nick) Fontana
Mary Gawen
Bill Houston
Tim Kellar
Tracy MacCharles
Sean McCullough
Tavis Nimmo
Eric (Zhen) Qin

OPG:

Lucas Curran
Heather Rambukkana
Dave Rogers
Bill Scott
Analiese St. Aubin

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Review of Minutes

The CAC minutes from April 16, 2024 were approved without changes.

Topic #2: Comments from the Community

CAC Facilitator Dave Hardy asked what members are hearing from the community. A Council member mentioned an interesting film about how nuclear waste is handled in a location in the United States. Link:

<https://watch.eventive.org/scnuclearfree/play/65df95a376a72b002f4c49af>

Topic #3: Site Update

Dave Rogers, Director Operations and Maintenance, presented a site update:

- Units 1, 4, 6, and 8 are operating at full power.
- Unit 5 is coming back on line after a short outage.
- Unit 7 is back on line after a maintenance outage and is currently operating at 90 percent full power.
- On the Sunday of the Victoria Day weekend (May 19), there was a steam release from Unit 4 that appeared larger than usual. Steam releases are a normal occurrence when units come offline or online. However, this one was larger because the unit was taken offline more quickly than usual.
- Operators followed procedures and brought the unit offline in a safe and controlled manner due to a fault with a switchyard breaker connecting the unit to the grid. Because this occurred in the switchyard, OPG worked closely with Hydro One to resolve.
- CAC members discussed how this event gained attention on social media, but there appeared to be a broad understanding in the community of what was happening.

Dave Rogers thanked the CAC for their planned intervention in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearing next week regarding the extension of Units 5 to 8 operations until the end of 2026.

Topic #4: PWMF Tour

Six CAC members toured the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF). They found the tour very informative. Tour guides Heather Rambukkana, Director Eastern Waste Operations, and Bill Scott, Manager Operations & Maintenance, Pickering Waste Management Facility, responded to Council questions. Following the meeting, Analiese St. Aubin provided further details: CAC member questions included:

1. What is the design life of the intermediate level waste containers outdoors on site?
Design life of Dry Storage Modules (DSMs) is 50 years. However, we have an aging management program and have also completed studies that indicate these containers will last well beyond the expected design life.
2. Was there Lake Ontario infilling done when the Pickering station was constructed?
Approximately 14 hectares of lakefilling was done in 1965 for Pickering A (Units 1 to 4). An additional eight hectares of lakefilling was done in 1974 for Pickering B (Units 5 to 8).
3. What is the concrete composition in Dry Storage Containers?
The Dry Storage Container (DSC) walls consist of 52 cm (approximate thickness) high density concrete. The reinforced high-density concrete provides radiation shielding while maintaining adequate used fuel decay heat dissipation. The concrete has a nominal density of 3.5 Mg/m³. There is no plastic in the concrete.
4. Are the tires on the DSC transporter pneumatic or full rubber?
The tires are solid rubber, urethane filled.

A Council member thanked OPG for arranging the tour. He remarked that there should be more public tours of the facility.

Topic #5: Community Update

Analiese St. Aubin, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs, presented an update on OPG activities in the community:

- On April 20th, to celebrate Earth Week, more than 120 community members participated in planting over 400 trees and shrubs in Alex Robertson Park in Pickering. This event was hosted by Environmental Stewardship Pickering (ESP), a partnership that includes the City of Pickering, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and OPG. To date, up to nine million trees have been planted.

- On Wednesday, May 1st, a group of Pickering Nuclear staff participated in “Bowl for Kids’ Sake” benefitting Big Brothers and Big Sisters. OPG is the title (Big Pin) sponsor of this event, and has been supporting in this capacity for 25 years.
- On Sunday, May 5th, Pickering Nuclear hosted Durham’s Steps for Life awareness walk, an annual fundraiser for Threads of Life, a Canadian charity supporting families affected by workplace tragedies. With over 150 participants in the walk, \$23,000 was raised.
- Tuesdays on the Trail 2024 will take place during July and August. Link for information and registration: [Event > Tuesdays on the Trail - OPG](#)
- The CNSC has issued a positive ruling on the applicability of OPG’s environmental assessment to the selected small modular reactor (SMR) technology for the Darlington New Nuclear Project. A second regulatory hearing to review OPG’s application for a Licence to Construct the first SMR unit is anticipated for the fall.

Lucas Curran, Communication Officer DNGS, noted that OPG’s annual Community Power Expo will take place at the Darlington Energy Complex on Saturday, Sept. 14th. This is a family-friendly, free event. A Council member who had attended a previous event encouraged all to attend. The demonstrations are amazing, he said. Link: <https://www.opg.com/events/opg-community-open-house/>

A Council member noted that the CAC minutes of April 16 mentioned that reviewers from the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) would be on the Pickering site for the week of May 6th. He asked how the review went.

Dave Rogers said that OPG received a positive, balanced review from WANO. As always, this was a thorough and rigorous review. There are some areas of focus that the plant will be working on. A mid-cycle WANO evaluation, which will feature a bigger review team, is coming up in October.

Topic #6: Concluding Comments

Dave Rogers thanked CAC members for their engagement throughout the year. He was excited about CAC participation in the CNSC hearing next week. He noted that a busy fall for Pickering Nuclear is coming up.

Next Meeting

Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024
4 pm – 7 pm

