

**DNGS Community Advisory Council
and
PNGS Community Advisory Council
Joint Meeting
Ontario Shores Hospital for Mental Health Services
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024
Highlights**

PNGS and DNGS Site Updates

Allan Grace presented updates for the Pickering and Darlington sites. He talked about the operating status of the units at each site. Regarding Pickering, he noted that the CNSC has approved extension of operations of Units 5 to 8 to the end of 2026. Allan responded to Council questions.

DNGS Relicensing Update

Lindsay Hamilton announced that, earlier this year, OPG submitted an application for renewal of the DNGS Power Reactor Operating Licence, which expires on November 30, 2025. The application requests a 30-year licence renewal from December 1, 2025 to November 30, 2055. Council members asked questions about OPG's first time request for a 30-year licence.

Community Update for Pickering and Darlington

Analiese St. Aubin presented an update on the many events that OPG supported and attended in the Darlington and Pickering host communities during the fall. The Annual Children's Watershed Festival, a Community Power Expo at Darlington and educational visits to elementary and high schools were among the items mentioned.

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Darlington CAC:

Jim Boate
Bethany Dainton
Sami Elhajjeh
Cara Gregory
Shiela Hall
Mary Novak
Jennifer O'Meara
Heather Reid
Penny Smith
Stacy Wanamaker
Bonnie Wrightman

Regrets:

Pat Pingle

Pickering CAC:

Craig Bamford
Frank Dempsey
Bill Houston
Pat Mattson
Sean McCullough
Tavis Nimmo
Peter Ottensmeyer
Eric (Zhen) Qin
Dan Shire
John Simpson
Nicholas (Nick) West

Guest:

Shireen Whitmore

Regrets:

Denise Bacon
Pam Collins

Nicholas (Nick) Fontana
Mary Gawen
Tim Kellar
Tracy MacCharles

OPG:

Allan Grace
Lindsay Hamilton
Marcus Madalena [SP?]
Analiese St. Aubin

Ontario Shores Hospital Foundation:

Tracy Clegg

Hardy Stevenson and Associates:

Francis Gillis
Dave Hardy

Topic #1: Welcome by Ontario Shores

Tracy Clegg, CEO, Ontario Shores Hospital Foundation, welcomed CAC members to Ontario Shores and talked about the work of the hospital. She talked about the need to educate the public about mental health services, noting that providing venues for public meetings was one of the ways the hospital reaches out to the community.

Topic #2: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgement, Allan Grace, Senior Vice President DNGS, talked about the importance of putting on snow tires and having retorquing done in preparation for winter driving.

Topic #3: Chair's Update and Review of Minutes

Facilitator Dave Hardy presented a Chair's update:

- At both the Pickering and Darlington meetings in September, the CACs heard about the 2023 results of OPG's Environmental Management Program (EMP) and Groundwater Monitoring Program (GMP). Actions came out of both meetings.

- ACTION: A Pickering CAC member had attended the Darlington Power Expo and saw that two agencies attending were talking about potassium (KI) pill distribution and emergency evacuation. The member pointed out that these subjects are ongoing community concerns. These subjects will be part of the January 2025 CAC meetings.
- ACTION: At both the Pickering CAC and Darlington CAC meetings, members asked a similar question about tritium levels in municipal water in other regions of Ontario. Following the meetings, OPG provided relevant data, which was circulated to the CACs on Oct. 2nd.

Other details:

- DNGS CAC members expressed interest in intervening in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearing on Jan. 8, 2025 regarding OPG's request for approval of a Licence to Construct the first small modular reactor (SMR). Council members approved a CAC draft intervention prepared by Dave Hardy, which was sent to the CNSC before the November 4th deadline. CAC members Heather Reid and Stacy Wanamaker will be presenting the intervention at the January hearing. The intervention document was subsequently sent to both CACs and to various levels of government. The intervention has been placed for information on the Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) agenda.
- PNGS CAC member Cody Morrison, planner with the City of Pickering, has left the CAC as a result of new employment with the Township of Uxbridge. The City of Pickering will be nominating a replacement.

Items received since the September meetings:

- The CNSC Record of Decision to approve the Pickering Operating Extension -- OPG PNGS Units 5-8 License Amendment to the end of 2026. Pickering CAC members appeared before the CNSC in support of the application.
- A YouTube video on the economics of Point Lepreau Generating Station nuclear power in New Brunswick at the request of a CAC member.
- On October 1st, we were notified that OPG reached a significant milestone in its operations when Pickering's Unit 1 was removed from service and placed into safe storage.

Review of Minutes

The PNGS CAC minutes of Sept. 17, 2024 and the DNGS CAC minutes of Sept. 24, 2024 were approved without changes.

Topic #4: What Council Members are Hearing in the Community

At the Pickering CAC meeting in September, a member had noted that people on Facebook were asking about barges in the lake near the plant. Senior Vice President Paul Seguin had said that the barges were drilling to develop a geotechnical assessment of the rock at the bottom of the lake. At this evening's meeting, the member remarked that it would be helpful to let people know the results of that assessment.

The same member noted that University of Toronto has researched geological faults in Rouge Park. He expressed interest in hearing about that research.

ACTION: Emergency preparedness will be on the agenda at the CAC meetings in January. Geological faults will be talked about during that discussion.

Topic #5: Site Updates

Allan Grace, Site Vice President at Darlington, provided an update for both the Pickering and Darlington sites:

PNGS:

- The Pickering station currently uses a surface water intake. As part of the planned refurbishment of Units 5 to 8, OPG is looking at constructing a deep-water intake, similar to the water intake at Darlington.
- The CNSC has approved the extension of operations at Units 5 to 8 to the end of 2026.
- The station will pause operations during refurbishment of Units 5 to 8.
- On October 1, Unit 1 was removed from service and placed in safe storage. Unit 4 will be taken offline at the end of the year. (Units 2 and 3 have been in safe storage for a number of years.)
- Units 6, 7, and 8 are operating at full capacity. Unit 5 is currently in a planned outage.

Allan responded to Council questions:

- *What is the current capacity for used fuel in the storage bays at Pickering Nuclear?*
The storage bays are now approaching full capacity but some used fuel bundles are being moved to dry storage containers (DSCs).

- *What are the plans for the land around Units 1 to 4?*
There are no immediate plans regarding land usage.
- *SMRs could be built on this land, as it is already licenced for reactors.*
I agree that would be an opportunity to be considered.
- *Will Units 5 to 8 all be taken off line at the same time.*
No, we will take a staggered approach.
- *How long will the plant be off line during refurbishment?*
The first unit is anticipated to return to service in the early 2030s.

DNGS:

- Unit 1 refurbishment was completed last week. (Allan presented a video about this achievement.)
- Unit 4 is now in the reassembly stage.
- Units 1, 2, and 3 are now operating at full power.

Allan, and Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager Corporate Relations and Projects, responded to Council questions:

- *Given the instability in Ukraine and the Middle East, have there been preliminary discussions with government regarding security?*
Allan: We have ongoing security programs tied in with government agencies, which address security challenges as they arise.
- *There was an earthquake (5.2 on the Richter scale) in Ajax some years ago. How is OPG prepared for the possibility of an earthquake?*
Lindsay: At the CAC meetings in January, OPG will provide information about earthquakes and Richter scale implications and how they relate to the capacity of the Pickering and Darlington reactors to withstand earthquakes. As well, the removal of dirt around the SMR site at Darlington will be discussed.
- *With the removal of dirt around the SMR site, it now looks like a parking lot.*
Allan: Infrastructure is going into the area. We will bring a map to the January meeting.
Lindsay: Aerial views of the site are reported on monthly. We will bring a video of these aerial views to the January meeting.
- *It would be good to see an interpretive path around the SMR site and landscaping where the site is visible to the public.*
(Dave noted that this suggestion was addressed in the CAC intervention regarding the Licence to Construct.)

- *I am hosting a group from the Canadian Nuclear Society in the summer and will be taking them to Darlington. Do you have any suggestions as to what the tour should include?*

Allan: Certainly the mock-up facility, a unique feature among nuclear sites, should be included in any tour. There are other operations that could be explored.

- *Are there any SMR activities internationally?*

Allan: Some partnerships have been initiated. OPG has a partnership around SMRs with the Tennessee Valley Authority. OPG is leading the industry internationally as far as construction goes. On the renewables side, we are looking at partnerships around hydrogen application.

- *Is there any exploration of uranium enrichment?*

Dave Hardy referred the Council member to the background report referenced by the Darlington CAC intervention on the SMR Licence to Construct.

Allan mentioned OPG's early engagement with municipal and Indigenous organizations to explore other nuclear applications and sites, for facilities larger than SMRs.

Topic #6: DNGS Relicensing Update

Lindsay Hamilton announced that, earlier this year, OPG submitted an application for renewal of the DNGS Power Reactor Operating Licence, which expires on November 30, 2025. The application requests a 30-year licence renewal from December 1, 2025 to November 30, 2055.

The CNSC will hold a two-part public hearing on March 26, 2025, and June 24–26, 2025 to consider OPG's application. The application highlights Darlington Nuclear's strong performance and significant achievements during the current licence term.

Lindsay responded to Council questions:

- *Have there been other 30-year licences for nuclear facilities?*

This would be the first 30-year licence in Canada. The completed refurbishment at Darlington helps that unprecedented term make sense.

- *Has there been any push-back against a 30-year term from government agencies?*

The Port Lepreau facility requested a 30-year licence term, which was not granted. (Allan noted that a key part of OPG's application is a plan for engagement with Indigenous communities and for an open and transparent approach to the licensing process.)

ACTION: Dave suggested the CAC read OPG's application and that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting. A link to the application to be provided to Council members.

Lindsay responded to further Council questions:

- *Is the SMR operation included in the application?*
No, the SMR will have its own operating licence. The length of time to be requested has not been decided yet. (Dave noted that OPG's current application is for a licence to construct the SMR; the request for a licence to operate will come at a later date.)
- *The CNSC should focus on the nuclear aspects of facilities. OPG shouldn't have to go through a CNSC licensing process for the rest of the plant.*
- *Once an operating licence is granted, does OPG have to submit any information to the CNSC during the term of the licence?*
Yes, there are regular reports to the CNSC demonstrating that OPG is obeying the licence conditions. OPG also reports on the lessons learned along the way.

Analiese St. Aubin, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs, noted that Pickering Nuclear currently has a 10-year licence to operate, which runs to 2028, which gets the facility through its refurbishment stage.

Lindsay remarked that there are a lot of licensing processes ahead of OPG. She wondered if bundling some processes might be a way of preventing community engagement exhaustion. How does OPG make public engagement easier but also meaningful?

A Council member suggested it may be necessary for the CNSC to shorten the licensing process in order to meet future energy demand in a timely manner.

ACTION: Dave suggested the CNSC be invited back to the CAC to update us on licensing processes.

Topic #7: Community Update for Pickering and Darlington

Analiese presented an update on the many events that OPG supported and attended in the Darlington and Pickering host communities during the fall:

- Since mid-September, OPG has supported the Annual Children's Watershed Festival (which drew 4,800 kids), set up booths at fall fairs and harvest festivals throughout the region, and participated in many other community events.
- The Community Power Expo at Darlington drew 3,200 community members.

- Our Electrifying Education program restarted for the 24/25 school year. By the end of November, we had visited four schools across the region, reaching almost 1,000 students from Grade 3 through high school. Spot the robot dog is always a big hit. Two more visits are scheduled for December.
- OPG's Pickering and Darlington sites also hosted almost 300 students for Take Your Kids to Work Day.
- On October 25, OPG welcomed veterans from our local Royal Canadian Legion Branches to kick off their Poppy Campaign at both our Pickering and Darlington sites.
- Activities are being planned at the Pickering and Darlington sites for OPG's 2025 March Break Blitz.

Lindsay presented a video created by Marcus Madalena [SP?] of the stakeholder relations department, featuring various OPG managers who have interacted with the CACs. Each manager expressed thanks and appreciation for the input of Council members.

Dave thanked the CACs for all their engagement and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He noted that the Darlington CAC intervention on the OPG application for a Licence to Construct for the SMR will take place on January 8th.

Next Meetings

PNGS Community Advisory Council

Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025
4 pm – 7 pm

DNGS Community Advisory Council

Darlington Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025
4 pm – 7 pm