

**DNGS Community Advisory Council
and
PNGS Community Advisory Council
Joint Meeting
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
Meeting Highlights**

Site Updates

PNGS Senior Vice President Paul Sequin presented site updates for Pickering and for Darlington. He talked about the operating status of the units at each site. Items at Pickering included: a plant visit from the Nuclear Safety Review Board; OPG presentations to municipal councils; a forthcoming employee Charity Car Show; and other activities. Items at Darlington included: regulatory approval for OPG production of certain medical isotopes; Part 2 of a regulatory hearing on the Darlington licence renewal; a project to construct a shaft under the bottom of the lake to bring cooling water into the plant; and other activities.

Pickering Refurbishment Project

Luca Ceccato presented an overview of Pickering refurbishment, scheduled to begin in 2027. The project will help to meet an anticipated increase in electricity demand in Ontario. Luca talked about the energy and economic benefits of Pickering refurbishment. He also presented some construction details.

Darlington Refurbishment Update

Peter Simpson presented an update of the Darlington refurbishment project. Units 1, 2, and 3 have been refurbished. Refurbishment of Unit 4 is progressing on schedule and on budget. Paul talked about how lessons learned from each unit increased efficiency in refurbishment from unit to unit.

OPG New Nuclear Update

Christine Adams talked about the construction of a small modular reactor (SMR) at the Darlington site (2025 – 2028). Unit 1 is scheduled to be commercially available in 2030. Christine also talked about construction and commercial operation of Units 2, 3, and 4 (2030 – 2025). She shared details of the major economic benefits of the four SMRs.

Public/Community Affairs

Analiene St. Aubin presented a recap of Pickering and Darlington involvement in spring 2025 activities. Among the Pickering activities: Electrifying Education activities in local schools; hosting a tree-planting and litter pick-up for community members; involving students in the Bring Back the Salmon program. Among the Darlington activities: supporting Wheels 4 Wishes event at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park; sponsorship of the Bowmanville Farmers Market; participation in Clarington Community Safety Day.

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<p>Darlington CAC: Jim Boate Cara Gregory (via video) Jennifer O’Meara (via video) Maria Petri (via video) Bonnie Wrightman</p>	<p>Pickering CAC: Waqas Ahmad Craig Bamford Frank Dempsey Nick Fontana Bill Houston Mimi Lau Sean McCullough Peter Ottensmeyer Eric (Zhen) Qin John Simpson</p>
<p><u>Regrets:</u> Sami Elhajjeh Sheila Hall Mary Novak Heather Reid</p>	<p><u>Regrets:</u> David Angelo-Williams Denise Bacon Pam Collins Tim Kellar Pat Mattson Tavis Nimmo Dan Shire Nick West</p>
<p>OPG: Christine Adams Jackie Crandles Allan Grace Luca Ceccato Paul Seguin Peter Simpson Analiese St. Aubin</p>	<p>Hardy Stevenson and Associates: Eileen Clark Francis Gillis Dave Hardy</p> <p>Guest: Bob Clark</p>

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, PNGS Senior Vice President Paul Sequin talked about hazards specific to summer. Recommendations included:

- Stay hydrated, even when you don't feel hot.
- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing sunscreen, hats, etc.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion.
- Water safety: swim only in designated areas and never swim alone.
- Safe driving: be aware of more pedestrians and bicycle traffic in summer.

Topic #2: CAC Membership Changes

Chairman and Facilitator Dave Hardy welcomed two new members, representing the City of Pickering, to the PNGS Community Advisory Council: Waqas Ahmad and Mimi Lau.

Dave announced that Stacy Wanamaker has resigned from the Darlington CAC. He expressed appreciation for Stacy's active involvement in the CAC over several years.

Dave announced that this was the last meeting involving Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited. Dave expressed his enjoyment of working with the Darlington and Pickering CACs over the last five years.

Francis and Eileen also talked about their involvement with the CACs over the past 25 years. They expressed appreciation for the Council members and OPG staff they've worked with over the years.

On behalf of OPG, Paul expressed gratitude to Dave, Francis and Eileen for all their work toward making the CAC process a successful one.

Topic #3: Review of Minutes

Dave noted the main topics of the Pickering and Darlington CAC meetings in April. The minutes of the Pickering CAC meeting of April 15, 2025 and of the Darlington CAC meeting of April 22, 2025 were approved without changes.

Topic #4: Site Updates

Paul presented site updates for Pickering and for Darlington.

PNGS Update

- The four still-active units—5, 6, 7, and 8—are operating at or near full power. Units 1 and 4 ceased commercial operations last year. Defueling is complete on Units 1 and 4.
- The Nuclear Safety Review Board, which focuses on safety culture, visited the plant a few weeks ago. They provided feedback on our work processes. Overall, they recognized the site's positive safety culture.

- Three barges are back in the lake near the site taking rock samples from the bottom.
- This month OPG is completing its round of annual presentations to municipal councils, where Paul, Dave Rogers and Luca Ceccato are updating them on station operations and the refurbishment project. On June 9, we presented at the City of Pickering. On June 23, we will be at both the Ajax and Whitby council meetings.
- Barges continue to be on the lake to complete the geotechnical assessments for the Pickering Refurbishment project.
- As part of its focus on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, OPG has participated in PRIDE events this month.
- A forthcoming event at Pickering Nuclear is the annual employee Charity Car Show. Many employees bring in their restored vehicles. This year, proceeds will go to the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre.
- A number of planned outages are scheduled from September through November.

DNGS Update

- Units 1, 2, and 3 are operating at or near full power. Unit 4 is in refurbishment.
- On May 26, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) approved a licence amendment that allows OPG to begin producing Lutetium-177 (Lu-177) (a medical isotope used for prostate cancer therapy) and Yttrium-90 (Y-90) (a medical isotope used to treat several types of cancer). Commercial production of Lu-177 is anticipated to begin in 2027. Commercial production of Y-90 is to begin in 2026.
- Part 2 of the CNSC hearing on the Darlington Licence Renewal will take place on June 24 – 26.

The project to construct a tunnel under the bottom of the lake at PNGS, to bring cooling water into the plant, reminded a Council member of the tunnel that OPG bore under Niagara Falls. Paul said this would be a less complex project than the tunnel under Niagara Falls. The member expressed interest in hearing about the tunnel at a future meeting.

Luca Ceccato added that the boring shaft would be 16 meters below the bottom of the lake and a kilometre-and-a-half in length. They are also building a tunnel to bring cooling water to the SMR at Darlington, so there will be some learnings there as well.

Luca responded to additional Council questions:

- *What is the rationale for constructing such a shaft?*

It's more environmentally friendly and the water drawn is cooler because it's from the bottom of the lake.

- *I presume it also reduces fish kill.*
Yes.

ACTION: To present, at a future meeting of the Pickering CAC, a description of the construction and operation of a shaft to bring cooling water from near the bottom of the lake into the plant.

Topic #5: Pickering Refurbishment Project

Luca Ceccato, Senior Vice President Nuclear Projects, presented an overview of the Pickering Nuclear Refurbishment Project (Appendix 1).

He noted that, beyond 2026, Units 5 to 8 will be shut down and begin refurbishment, pending regulatory approval. Anticipated growth in Ontario electricity demand over the next 25 years and the experience of refurbishment at Darlington made the case for refurbishment at Pickering.

Luca talked about the clean energy and economic benefits of Pickering refurbishment, probably one of the biggest industrial projects in North America.

He noted that the same team that worked on Darlington refurbishment will be working on the Pickering project.

Unlike the Darlington project, the existing 48 boilers in Pickering Units 5 – 8 will be replaced, as they are nearing their end of life. Given the limited number of skilled boiler workers, Pickering Nuclear will be coordinating with Bruce Power, as they are replacing boilers as well.

Luca also talked about plans for the Pickering Nuclear campus to facilitate the refurbishment project. Among these are plans to fix and repave Sandy Beach Road and Montgomery Park Road.

A sally port will be constructed at the west end of the site (corner of Sandy Beach Road/Montgomery Park Road) to provide a security access point so that big trucks can be brought into the site.

Luca said that a PNGS licence renewal application will be submitted to the CNSC by June 30.

Luca responded to Council questions:

- *When will the repaving of Sandy Beach and Montgomery roads begin?*

As early as possible next year. We will certainly finish by year end. We will also construct a new building to house boilers and are moving the fence near the lake to allow more room for a deep-water intake.

- *How will OPG make up for the loss of energy to the province due to refurbishment?*
Three Darlington units are now on line, and the one unit still being refurbished is planned be back on-line next year. Refurbished Bruce Power reactors are also coming back on line. There will also be more frequent usage of hydro and gas power.
- *How will the refurbishment project affect workforce size at Pickering?*
Darlington refurbishment was primarily a vendor driven exercise. Here at Pickering the workforce will shift from operating to refurbishing. We don't have the workforce to re-open all four units at the same time.
- *Will the Pickering team be visiting the Darlington mock-up.*
The Pickering units are different, so a mock-up specific to the Pickering plant will be constructed at a facility on Church St., Ajax.

Topic #6: Darlington Refurbishment Update

Peter Simpson, Senior Director Projects, presented an update on the Darlington Nuclear Refurbishment Project (Appendix 2).

Peter noted that the four-unit station provides about 20 percent of Ontario's electricity.

He talked about the economic and employment benefits of the station's refurbishment over the course of the project. He also talked about the refurbishment outage schedule from the third quarter of 2016 to the end of 2026, noting that the project execution schedule has been reduced unit to unit to drive cost savings. Lessons learned from the refurbishment of each unit were applied cumulatively to increase the efficiency of the subsequent refurbishment. The unprecedented refurbishment of two units at the same time (Unit 3 and Unit 1) also accelerated the project timeline.

Unit 4 refurbishment is progressing on schedule and on budget. The fuel channel installation was completed on May 7. Return to service is anticipated in Q1 2026 (commitment is Q4 2026).

The overall refurbishment program is ahead of schedule and under budget.

Peter also talked about how Pickering and Darlington Nuclear ensure a steady supply of medical isotopes for the world.

Peter responded to Council questions:

- *Why do lessons remain as you progress from unit to unit in refurbishment?*
We are still learning as we progress from unit to unit. As you can see from the slide, the number of lessons reduces significantly from one unit to the next.
- *Would there be still more learnings if there were more units?*
There would be diminishing returns in number of lessons learned, but we would be still learning, still getting smarter with each new unit.
- *Regarding isotopes, do you produce the anti-cancer isotope Actinium-225? Or perhaps Bruce Power does?*
I don't know.
- *What is Cobalt-60?*
(Paul Seguin said that this isotope is used mostly for sterilization. Pickering and Darlington have been producing it for many years.)

Topic #7: OPG New Nuclear Update

Christine Adams, DNNP Project Director, presented an update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project (Appendix 3). She presented a roadmap of the project:

- CNSC licences issued (2024 & 2025)
- Construction of the first of four small modular reactors (SMRs) (2025 – 2028)
- Commercial availability of Unit 1 (2030)
- Subject to regulatory approvals, construction and commercial operations of Units 2 – 4 (2030 – 2035)

Christine presented a “2025 Lookahead,” detailing the construction of Unit 1 and all the site infrastructural elements in this and subsequent years, including preparatory work for the construction of Units 2 – 4.

She noted that panels are being manufactured off-site. These will be brought to the site where they will be welded together and assembled for the reactor building.

Christine listed the next steps:

- Prepare the Licence to Operate application ahead of submission to the CNSC in 2026
- Fulfill environmental assessment commitment through recreational user surveys at the Darlington Nuclear site public spaces
- Procure and receive major parts and equipment
- Continued hiring of required trades and operations & maintenance staff
- Continued engagement with rights holders, stakeholders and the public

Christine shared details of the major economic benefits of four SMRs, according to the Conference Board of Canada (2025). She also detailed the ways in which the project will continue to demonstrate its commitment to community engagement.

Christine responded to Council questions:

- *The mountain of dirt from site excavation is getting bigger and bigger. I get lots of questions about it from community members.*
That hill of dirt will continue to grow until the end of the project.
- *Is all the soil being retained on the site?*
Yes.
- *Where do all the panels you are bringing in come from?*
They are all locally constructed.

A Council member remarked that a lot of people in Pickering would really enjoy the annual OPG Community Power Expo at Darlington.

ACTION: Publicize Community Power Expo to the public in Pickering.

Topic #8: Pickering and Darlington Public/Community Affairs

Analiene St. Aubin, Senior Manager Corporate Relations and Projects, presented a recap of spring 2025 activities.

Pickering

- There were tours of Pickering Nuclear by the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade (May 9) and the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (May 30).
- OPG brought its Electrifying Education program to St. James Catholic School in Ajax (April 23) and St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School in Pickering (May 14). There is now a waiting list of schools interested in these visits,
- On April 26, Environmental Stewardship Pickering hosted a tree planting and litter pick-up at Alex Robertson Park. Over 160 community members participated. This event was supported by OPG, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and other community organizations.
- In this year's final stage of the Pickering Bring Back the Salmon program on June 4, a Grade 4 class from Duffin's Bay Public School joined OPG, TRCA and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to release 79 Atlantic salmon into Duffin's Creek.
- On June 5, Environmental Stewardship Pickering hosted its first world community Environment Day event which OPG participated in.

Analiene also talked about this summer's Tuesdays on the Trail program. Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Corporate Relations will offer a range of well-attended events on select Tuesdays in July and August.

Darlington

- OPG supported Make A Wish's, Wheels 4 Wishes event at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park.
- OPG hosted the Clarington Board of Trade Energizing Opportunities Summit at the Darlington Energy Centre. 127 representatives from local business and post-secondary students attended.
- OPG kicked off its sponsorship of the Bowmanville Farmers Market on May 16.
- OPG was a sponsor and attendee at the returning Clarington Community Safety Day on June 7. OPG Light Armored Vehicle, pump truck, aerial support unit and SPOT the robot dog were in attendance and interacted with well over 600 people.
- On May 8, the Province of Ontario approved OPG to begin construction on the first of four SMR units at its Darlington New Nuclear Project site. This represents the first new nuclear build in Ontario in more than three decades.
- Looking forward, Darlington will be at events across Oshawa, Clarington and Northumberland this summer including Clarington Public Library Summer Reading Launch, Bowmanville Farmer's Market, Northumberland Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Bowmanville Rotary Street Eats Festival and Clarington Canada Day, to name a few forthcoming activities.
- Darlington also looks forward to hosting several summer camps for *Electrifying Education* sessions both at site and in the community.

Topic #9: Concluding Comments

Dave Hardy, Paul Seguin and Allan Grace expressed their appreciation to the Pickering and Darlington CACs for the time and energy they devote to their discussions with OPG.

Next Meetings

PNGS Community Advisory Council

Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025

4 pm – 7 pm

DNGS Community Advisory Council

Darlington Nuclear Information Centre

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025

4 pm – 7 pm