

PNGS Community Advisory Council
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Meeting Highlights

Site Updates

PNGS Senior Vice President Dave Rogers introduced himself as new in role as of Jan. 1, 2026 and presented site updates for Pickering. He talked about the operating status of the units at each site. Items at Pickering included: the Unit 8 planned maintenance outage, safe storage update on Units 1 and 4, some site priorities for 2026, the recent provincial announcement regarding refurbishment and some of the current infrastructure work around site.

Enterprise Emergency Management (EEM) Update

Ghulam Khawaja presented the annual overview OPG's EEM program including highlights from 2025 and plans in 2026. He talked about the Ontario nuclear emergency framework and the roles of the province, municipalities and utilities. He also talked about the emergency response structure within OPG and staff commitments. He detailed OPG's extensive program of drills and exercises.

PNGS Licensing Update

Barbara Stravropoulos presented an update on the upcoming relicensing activities for PNGS. She noted OPG's application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for the early licence renewal, what the request entails, public hearing details and the process for public interventions.

Public/Community Affairs

Analiene St.Aubin presented a recap of Pickering's involvement in fall 2025 activities. Among the Pickering activities: Several stakeholder tours of the station, the successful Community Power Expo which was held at the Pickering site for the first time, participation in Family Safety Day, Remembrance Day ceremonies, DRPS Food & Toy Drive, and the Whitby Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Award. She also mentioned some upcoming public engagement activities and community programs.

In attendance:

Denise Bacon
Dan Shire
Shireen Whitmore
Ahmad Waqas
John Simpson
Pat Mattson
David Angelo Williams
Zhen Qin
Craig Bamford
Peter Ottensmer
Nick West
Bill Houston

Tentative:

Frank Dempsey
Nick Fontana
Mary Gawen

Regrets:

Sean McCullough
Pam Collins
Tim Kellar

OPG:

David Rogers
Soo Chae
Ghulam Khawaja
Diana Benjamin
Barbara Stavropoulos
Analiесе St.Aubin
Crystal Neault

Topic #1: Health and Safety Moment

Following a Land Acknowledgment, Senior Vice President Dave Rogers talked about safe winter driving and how to prepare for hazardous road conditions. He talked about the importance of: winter maintenance on your vehicle, a winter emergency kit, and planning ahead for inclement weather.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

Analiene noted the main topics of the Pickering CAC meeting in September. The minutes of the Pickering CAC meeting of Sept. 16, 2025 were approved without changes. She also noted that in lieu of a December meeting, the CAC was provided with a written update sent by email.

Topic #3: Site Updates

Dave presented the Pickering site update.

PNGS Update

- Units 5, 6, 7 and 8 are operating at or near full power.
- Current safe storage activities include dewatering complete for both Units 1 and 4. Mechanical and electrical end stating is completed, and there are a few common systems we are working on.
- Station priorities in 2026 include, Unit 7 outage beginning Feb. 2 and Unit 8 outage beginning in March. These are the last outages on these units, and all four units will be removed from service by the end of September
- In November, Minister of Energy Stephen Lecce visited Pickering to announce the official greenlight of the Pickering Refurbishment Project. This is an important step that allows OPG to continue project planning through the rest of 2026. The next step is to gain regulatory approval.
- Some key infrastructure work continues this year as we get ready for refurbishment to start on Jan. 1, 2027. The first phase of resurfacing on Sandy Beach and Montgomery Park Roads was completed in the fall of 2025. The next phase will begin in spring 2026. OPG is installing traffic cameras to monitor flow to/from site. We continue to work closely with the City of Pickering and Region of Durham on these projects.

Topic #4: Annual Enterprise Emergency Management (EEM) Update

Ghulam Khawaja, Senior Manager Emergency Preparedness, presented an overview of the EEM program for 2026 (Appendix 1).

Ghulam presented the EEM mandate: To ensure OPG has adequate provisions for the preparedness and response capability to mitigate the effects of a nuclear emergency and protect the health and safety of the public, personnel and the environment.

He noted that OPG's Emergency Response Organization includes 1,200 trained members ready to address an emergency.

He talked about the Ontario Nuclear Emergency Framework and the roles of:

- Province: authority for off-site emergency response and makes all public protective action decisions
- Municipalities: implement the response action directed by the Province
- Utilities: quickly notify and transmit information to off-site parties when an event is occurring and deal with the on-site response

The Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) determines the protective action to be used for public safety plus the requirements for all stakeholders. Provincial Public Actions include:

- sheltering in place;
- evacuations;
- ingestion of potassium iodide pills;
- ingestion control measures;
- and other actions.

The OPG Emergency Response Organization Structure is comprised of three scalable levels. Depending on the severity of the incident, various elements of the Emergency Response Organization—Strategic, Operational or Tactical—may be activated. Staffing is on an on-call basis.

Ghulam talked about the OPG Drills and Exercise Program, which includes 10 drills annually to evaluate every duty response team at Darlington and Pickering as well as several additional focused drills. Every three years, at each of Darlington and Pickering, OPG executes a full-scale exercise involving regional and provincial off-site authorities.

Ghulam reviewed 2025 highlights, including drills, exercises and other activities. He also listed 2026 priorities, among them: an exercise related to the EEM mobile monitoring and decontamination unit; continued support for the emergency response capability of the Darlington Small Modular Reactor project; and emergency management performance evaluation by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). Exercise Unified Command 2025, an exercise involving municipal, regional and federal government organizations, will be conducted at Darlington.

Ghulam responded to council questions:

Do your drills include scenarios like the 2013 blackout?

Yes. Several drills have included this scenario.

What part of KI pills expire?

It's more the packaging that expires.

A CAC member added that KI pills use a binding agent like starch which also likely has an expiry date.

Was OPG involved in the 60-car pile up outside of Brockville last week?

OPG was not involved, nor was it OPG material. Transportation of nuclear materials in Canada is a highly regulated activity, and so the CNSC was involved. OPG was aware and ready to support if required.

How does OPG co-ordinate with Lakeridge Health and does OPG consider the resource strain on the hospital which regularly operates over capacity?

OPG regularly updates our "Code 77-Contaminated Casualty" procedure in partnership with Lakeridge Health. They have a standalone program that sufficiently supports OPG. OPG monitors capacity concerns at Lakeridge Health.

Who helps you develop threat strategies?

They are developed in house.

How do people on your team develop scenarios?

Responders are trained to respond to functional scenarios. Scenarios are constantly developing. Knowledge sharing helps us and other industries to be prepared.

What is OPG's response to the climate change threat strategy?

OPG is reviewing how resilient our station's infrastructure is and how we can respond to changes from a business continuity point of view.

Topic #5: PNGS Licensing Update

Barbara Stravropoulos, Pickering Regulatory Affairs, presented a licensing update for Pickering Nuclear (Appendix 1).

Barbara noted that OPG submitted an application to the CNSC last June to operate Pickering Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 to 2026. *The Commission will hold a public hearing on the application in June of this year. Applications to intervene in the hearing are due by May 11. *Note these dates have been revised since this meeting. **The 2-part hearing will now take place in the National Capital Region on June 23, 2026, and in Ajax, Ontario, during the week of October 5, 2026. and can be viewed at: [Download Hearing Documents](#).***

Barbara responded to council questions:

Is there a template for this application (to intervene) and what does a hearing look like?

Stakeholder Relations will follow up with previous interventions to review as a template. A hearing includes OPG and CNSC staff answering questions from commission members. Part 2 includes public intervenors and allows commission members to ask questions to them, OPG and CNSC staff.

I'd like to emphasize the importance of committee input to the CNSC and the need for a facilitator to help arrange. Our committee needs to be careful about what we're qualified to comment on.

Another council member agreed it's important to have a facilitator for an outside view.

We agree and we are working to find a facilitator as quickly as possible.

Back in 2013, when PN was going to shut down, I was told it was not just due to reactor life but also because this station was not up to modern standards. What has changed?

Dave Rogers responded - Millions of replacements and upgrades have been completed here since 2013. In 2013 environmental concerns were not as prevalent, and grid demands were lower (no data centers or AI). Today, there is more awareness surrounding the need for baseload power, environmental benefits, and energy sovereignty.

CAC Intervention

Council members expressed interest in intervening in the upcoming CNSC hearing. The importance of a moderator was emphasized by several members to assist with preparing the submission. Dave and Analiese committed to pursuing this request. Analiese will send previous CAC intervention submissions to the committee as a reference.

Topic #6: Pickering and Darlington Public/Community Affairs

Analiese St. Aubin, Senior Manager Corporate Relations and Projects, and Crystal Neault, Senior Communications Advisor, presented a recap of winter 2026 activities and upcoming spring and summer activities.

Pickering

- There were tours of Pickering Nuclear by the Ontario Big City Mayors (April 17), Staff from City of Pickering, Economic Development department (April 24), Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade (April 30) and Durham Region Fire Services (May 1).
- Two upcoming public engagement opportunities for the license renewal activities on June 10 at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre and July 16 which is a virtual session.

- In this year's Bring Back the Salmon program, a class of Grade 2 and 3 students from Duffin's Bay Public Elementary School in Ajax visited the Pickering Information Centre for the launch of the Bring Back the Salmon Educational Hatchery Program. On April 21, the students visited Brock Ridge Park for a litter clean up. The four-tier program will conclude in June with the release of the salmon fry at the Claremont Education Centre.
- Another successful March Break program hosted over 1,800 community members between the Pickering and Darlington sites. Programs included Cineplex Odeon Cinemas, City of Pickering, City of Oshawa, Ajax Public Library, Clarington Library Museums and Archives, Dan the Music Man, Junior Einsteins, Windreach Farm, Durham Region Transit, Metrolinx, Durham Region Police Service and the Kids Safety Village of Durham Region.
- On April 18, Environmental Stewardship Pickering hosted a tree planting and litter pick-up at Alex Robertson Park. Over 300 trees and shrubs were planted. This event was supported by OPG, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and other community organizations.

Upcoming events include hosting several community groups for presentations, Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake, Steps for Life Walk and the summer Tuesdays on the Trail program. Information about community events is available on opg.com.

Final Questions:

Regarding the housing at the foot of Liverpool Rd., does OPG foresee the exclusion zone shrinking?

No. OPG does not intend to change the exclusion zone.

Topic #7: Concluding Remarks

Dave expressed appreciation to CAC members for their attendance and raising of important questions.

Next Meeting

Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

4 pm – 7 pm