

DNGS Community Advisory Council
Darlington NGS Community Advisory Council
Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026
Meeting Highlights

Site Updates

Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (DNGS) Senior Vice President Allan Grace presented site updates for Darlington Nuclear. He talked about the station and highlighted that Unit 4 is in the final stretch of its refurbishment outage and provided an update on the ongoing installation of the isotope target delivery system activities.

2025 Annual Emergency Preparedness Updates

Ghulam Khawaja, Manager Emergency Preparedness Implementation, presented on OPG's emergency preparedness program and highlighted examples of the 2025 drill and exercises key achievements and outcomes.

Darlington Public/Community Affairs Reports

Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Relations, Corporate Affairs shared updates for the DNNP and Wesleyville.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Darlington CAC:

Jennifer O'Meara (via video)

Cara Gregory

Mary Novak

Jim Boate

Bonnie Wrightman

Sheila Hall

Maria Petri

Heather Reid

Regrets:

Sami Elhajjeh

OPG:

Allan Grace

Lindsay Hamilton

Chris Grills

Jacqueline Kemlo

Ghulam Khawaja

Topic #1: Welcome

Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Relations, Corporate Affairs, opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction.

Lindsay referenced a new facilitator is under discussion for the DNGS Community Advisory Council.

- **Comment from Mary Novak:** Mary noted her appreciation for an independent, third-party facilitator, speaking to the value of an unbiased presence without ties to the local community.

Lindsay noted the Terms of Reference are publicly available online and could be brought forward as a discussion item at a future meeting, should the council wish to review them.

- **Comment from Mary Novak:** Mary raised that she has observed online discussion from Port Hope residents who have expressed concern.
- **Ongoing discussion and key takeaways included:**
 - The council was encouraged to provide additional feedback regarding the facilitator.
 - Council members can propose and recommend new representatives to support committee growth in 2026 and 2027.
 - Lindsay to consider bringing Terms of Reference forward for review at a future meeting.

Topic #2: Land Acknowledgement

Allan Grace, Senior Vice President of Darlington Nuclear, provided a land acknowledgement, recognizing the Darlington and Pickering Generating Stations are located on the traditional and treaty territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, known collectively as the Williams Treaties First Nations.

No comments regarding Allan's Land Acknowledgement.

Topic #3: Safety Message

Allan provided a winter safety update, emphasizing that while nuclear safety remains the organization's top priority, safe winter driving also requires attention during this time of year. He noted the importance of planning ahead, winter vehicle maintenance, using winter tires and keeping a winter emergency kit.

- CAC members further noted the importance of access to food and heat during severe winter conditions.

Topic #4: Review of Minutes

No comments from the September minutes from the CAC members.

Topic #5: Site Updates

Allan Grace presented site updates for Darlington.

DNGS Update

- Units 1-3 continue to operate at or near full power.
- Unit 4 continues to be in the final stretch of its refurbishment outage.
 - As of January 19, the station cleared Restart Control Hold Point 5/Regulatory Hold Point 2, which is the removal of the Guarantee Shutdown State.
 - This marks the formal turnover from the project team back to the operations for return to service activities.
 - The overall refurbishment project remains on track for early completion and within the \$12.8B budget.
 - Allan highlighted that there is still a lot of testing and work to be done before unit 4 provides electricity to the grid, such as the turbine controls testing.
- Isotopes Production
 - Allan provided an update on the ongoing installation of the target delivery system activities, noting continued production on Unit 2 and confirming the isotope target delivery system will be installed on Unit 3 when the unit is taken offline for maintenance this summer 2026.
 - Allan also shared background on Laurentis Energy Partners (LEP) and explained LEP's role within the industry. In his explanation, he highlighted LEP manages the commercial isotopes and interface agreements, serving as the business arm for the isotope production efforts.
- **Comments Allan and CAC members:** All acknowledged the excitement of these milestones, noting that the first unit shut down in 2016.
- **Question from Mary Novak:** How long will the outage on Unit 3 be and is it being taken offline to install the isotopes?
 - **Allen Grace:** This work aligns with a planned maintenance outage, and the installation is being coordinated to take advantage of this scheduled maintenance period.

Topic #6: Annual Emergency Preparedness Update

Ghulam Khawaja, Manager Emergency Preparedness Implementation, presented on OPG's emergency preparedness program.

The presentation included an overview of OPG's nuclear emergency preparedness framework and included that the program is designed to meet all the requirements under REGDOC-2.10.1 and the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP).

Ghulam noted the emergency program is supported by a dedicated, continuously staffed Emergency Response Organization (ERO) and we have specialized Emergency Management Centres at both the site and corporate levels. Regular drills, exercises, and evaluations ensure plans are in place to keep staff responsive, compliant, and aligned with federal and provincial standards.

The Council was briefed on key achievements and outcomes for the following drills and exercises:

- Darlington and Pickering completed four nuclear emergency drills during a full site assembly drill. The results demonstrated strong coordination and performance by the ERO and support staff.
- Darlington teams performed a simulated transportation incident with staff following the required protocols for communication, and safety, and met all exercise objectives during the drill.
- Both sites conducted drills with teams demonstrating quick detection, reporting, and management of potential issues.
- Both stations underwent Emergency Preparedness Performance Evaluations (EMPE) led by the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). The evaluation rated OPG's program as meeting high standards, and drill participants showed strong critical thinking and validated key data and procedures.
- Nearly 500 participants from OPG and 11 partner organizations took part in a full-scale, two-day nuclear emergency drill at Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations which spanned more than a dozen locations, testing real-time coordination and emergency response plans.
- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) inspectors observed the deployment and operation of emergency equipment under realistic conditions with Indigenous partners, senior government and regulatory officials.
- Organized by the NER, OPG teams worked alongside IESO, Hydro One, Bruce Power, and other Ontario partners to engage over 150 OPG employees in the GridEx VIII security exercise.

Ghulam highlighted that OPG's Business Continuity Program was updated in 2025 to reflect best practices and learnings. The 2025 update included integrating the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) Resilience standards and comprehensive preparedness planning. This year, OPG emergency response plan will continue to focus on continuous improvement, regular testing, and training.

Ghulam provided an update on the KI pill distribution programming, noting approximately 4.7 million KI pills have been distributed since 2015. In 2025, approximately 100,000 were distributed through the New Neighbours Program and approximately 150,000 through PreparedToBeSafe.ca. He noted that OPG orders have increased approximately 20 per cent from the previous year, and shared that a KI pill replacement project is scheduled between May and Sept 2026 for all addresses within the 0-10k zone of PNGS and DNGS.

Additionally, Ghulam highlighted that Pickering 014 is now in safe storage while Pickering 058 preparing for refurbishment.

The Emergency Response Organization (ERO) will remain in place with minimal changes, and the drill and exercise program will continue with modifications as needed.

- **Question from Mary Novak:** What is the upset limit and the capacity of the roads and how is capacity determined?
 - Ghulam explained evacuation time estimates and referenced the Darlington Evacuation Time Estimate (ETE) study. He noted that this report is shared with the Province and Region and is publicly available on OPG's website. You can find the report [here](#).
 - As a follow-up to Mary's inquiry, the conversation expanded to include considerations related to population capacity. Following the meeting, Ghulam provided additional clarification, indicating the following: *To address the issue of population growth, the standard ETE methodology includes population projections on a 'per decade' basis out to the late 2080s. This ensures that the most current and accurate projected changes to population distribution and the available infrastructure are incorporated.*
- **Question from Mary Novak:** Mary inquired about critical staff and the parameters related to where they live in proximity to the station.
 - Ghulam explained the shift requirements for on-call staff, including comprehensive policies to ensure personnel are fit for duty at all times and can report within 90 minutes to Pickering or Darlington.
- Lindsay, Chris, and Allan provided context with personal examples of their roles in the Emergency Response Organization and highlighted the positive commitment from employees to respond immediately. One of the examples shared was the "Touch the Wall" drill. The CAC committee acknowledged that the examples of commitment were impressive.
- **Question from Mary Novak:** Can OPG share these insights and lesser-known aspects of the emergency response program with the public to help build understanding, particularly as community members are becoming more knowledgeable about local projects. Examples of these projects included Wesleyville, DNNP, Durham York Energy centre, the Courtice waterfront initiative.

- Chris and Jim highlighted the value of community engagement at public events to share information and personal examples.
- **Question from Mary Novak:** Has OPG ever been compromised by a cybersecurity incident, and Jim followed up with a question regarding ransom attack procedures.
 - Ghulam explained that station operations are not connected to the broader business network—that business operations and plant operations are managed separately. He highlighted that OPG maintains rigorous cybersecurity measures and continuously updates procedures to align with industry best practices.
- **Question from Sheila Hall:** Sheila spoke to a conversation which suggested that an individual understood that Peterborough is being equipped to handle a potential nuclear emergency.
 - Lindsay noted that this may relate to broader provincial and regional emergency preparedness strategies. Lindsay added that nuclear-specific considerations are only one part of a much larger set of emergency plans and procedures.

Topic #7: Darlington Public/Community Affairs Reports

Lindsay Hamilton shared updates for the DNNP and Wesleyville and said both teams will provide more comprehensive presentations at a future DNGS Community Advisory Council meeting.

- **Question from Mary Novak:** Mary inquired if we've had to adjust schedules or make monetary adjustments for DNNP due to recent announcement from the Prime Minister and Premier.
 - Chris explained that we cannot fast-track nuclear projects due to construction and regulatory processes regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). This regulatory body ensures the safety and security of nuclear energy.
- **Question from Mary Novak:** Mary asked if visitors are visiting the Port Hope Nuclear Discovery Centre.
 - Lindsay confirmed that we are seeing visitors at the Centre and participating in information sessions, and all this engagement will be factored into OPG's Impact Assessment process.
 - Bonnie also highlighted the importance of collaborating with the host community on funding and community engagement opportunities. Lindsay agreed that it is important and spoke to how the Stakeholder Relations team in Port Hope is collaborating with the Port Hope High School to offer educational programs, for example.

Topic #8: Concluding Comments

Allan Grace expressed his appreciation to the Darlington CACs for the time and emphasized the value of these meetings, noting that he enjoys participating in them.

Next Meetings

Joint Community Advisory Council

Darlington Energy Complex

1855 Energy Drive, Courtice

Tuesday, April 28 2025

4 – 7:00 p.m.