

Darlington CAC - Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Attendees: Jim Boate, Sheila Hall, Brenda Metcalf, Mary Anne Found, Pat Pingle, Jim Cryderman; Jennifer Knox (OPG) and Brian Duncan (OPG).

Darlington Station Update (Pickering 2024)

Brian Duncan provided an update on Darlington station operations and safety performance. At OPG we continue to keep safety as our number one priority and strive to reach zero injuries at site. Currently, employees at Darlington have worked 351 days without a lost-time injury.

Darlington Unit 1 is undergoing a spring maintenance outage. Darlington Unit 2 is being refurbished, and progress is being made, with particular focus on station integration with the refurbishment team. Darlington Units 3 and 4 are operating at full power.

This year will bring more regulatory work, as staff prepare for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission hearings to licence Pickering operations to 2024. Currently, information gathering and planning is underway. Brian discussed the strong safety and performance of Pickering Nuclear. Regulatory hearings will take place in early 2018. As with all regulatory proceedings, public participation is welcomed, and further information on how to register as an intervener will be posted on the CNSC and OPG websites.

The province of Ontario is updating the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan, and are seeking feedback on proposed changes from the public. The proposed changes are based on new international recommended practices, Canadian Standards Association standards, and lessons learned.

As background, Ontario coordinates nuclear emergency planning for five nuclear areas, including Durham/Toronto, Kincardine, Laurentian Hills and Amherstburg.

The province is responsible for the off-site (the area outside the boundary of the nuclear facility) response to the nuclear facility. The onsite security is the responsibility of OPG and the federal government. Information on participation in the process was shared.

Pickering Waste and Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Update

On behalf of Jennifer Powers, Jennifer Knox provided an update on nuclear waste management and the DGR.

The three principles of waste management over 40 years of operation include stewardship, lasting solutions, and peace of mind.

Licence renewal hearings will take place this month for the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) at the Bruce nuclear site and the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF). The Pickering CAC participated in the process by issuing a supportive letter to the CNSC regarding the PWMF.

Jennifer provided a refresher on the DGR, which will safely and permanently store all low- and intermediate-level waste from OPG-owned nuclear facilities, as part of the

lasting solutions to nuclear waste management. She provided an update on the DGR regulatory process, noting that in 2015, the federal Joint Review Panel concluded that the DGR project should proceed “now rather than later.”

In 2016, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change asked for three additional reports, which OPG completed in December. A study found that environmental effects are greater at alternative locations for the project, and costs are higher, with no additional benefits in safety to the public or the environment. OPG got 23 technical questions on its reports from the Minister, to which it will respond by the end of May.

As a next step, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) will prepare analysis and recommendations for the federal Minister. The Minister's decision on the Environment Assessment for the DGR is expected by the end of 2017. Given additional regulatory and design steps, the earliest completion of the DGR would be 2026, should the licence be granted.

Nuclear waste management in terms of human performance, environmental stewardship, public safety, public information and engagement, and Indigenous relations was also discussed.

Community Update

March Break

Families from across Durham Region once again enjoyed our March Break with almost 6,000 attending the educational and environmental programs held in conjunction with our community partners including:

- A science and astronomy program in partnership with the Durham Region Astronomy Association, the ROM and Let's Talk Science
- WindReach Farm
- Purple Woods Conservation Area
- Durham Children's Safety Village
- The City of Pickering and Municipality of Clarington

Our program partners were all very happy with their associated programs and are appreciative of the opportunity to create more awareness for their respective organizations. Feedback was exceptional, and community members were very quick to tell us how appreciative they are of these OPG programs.

Licensing Activities

OPG is seeking to renew the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF) operating licence for another term, to Aug. 31, 2028.

The licence application seeks continued operation of the Dry Storage Container (DSC) Storage Buildings at the Pickering site, and requests approval to construct and operate a new DSC Processing Building, and three additional DSC Storage Buildings on the Phase II site. This will support the continued operation of [Pickering Nuclear](#), pending other regulatory approvals.

OPG continues to participate in stringent environmental reviews and monitoring of site operations to ensure there are no consequences to the environment. Following public hearings this April, the CNSC will soon present their decision.

Diversity Day

At OPG, we know that a key ingredient to a successful work force is diversity, which is why we are celebrating World Day for Cultural Diversity on Friday, May 26.

Diversity day provides an opportunity to celebrate diverse perspectives, bring together different cultures and deepen our understanding of one another's values.

Celebrations will be taking place across various OPG sites and will include guest speakers and discussions about diversity, inclusion and how our differences make us stronger.

By joining in the celebration, we continue to support our long term goals of “*building a diverse, healthy and engaged workforce and the culture to success in a challenging future.*”

Additional Updates/ Activities:

- Currently planning Tuesday's on the Trail program with our community partners at Darlington and Pickering, which will once again provide include educational and environmental programs for families across the Region.
- This Saturday, May 27th, OPG in partnership with the Municipality of Clarington, will be hosting a Scout Pollinator Planting event in the Port of Newcastle. In efforts to stem the decline of monarch butterflies, honey bees and other pollinator species, a variety of native pollinator plants including such as Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Common Milkweed, New England Aster will be planted by our local Scouting groups along an identified monarch migration route. OPG has had a long term partnership with the local Scouting community, and look forward to the upcoming planting.
- Also this Saturday, we invite you to join Mayor and Council in the opening of the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Forest Trail followed by the dedication of Jim Boate Hill.

Neighbours Newsletter

The next edition of *Neighbours* Newsletter will arrive in mailboxes around Darlington and Pickering at this end of the month, featuring the station updates and schedule for the popular Tuesdays on the Trail program (attached).

**Handouts: Presentation – Pickering Waste and DGR Update
PNERP 60-day public consultation period
OPG Generating Stations – Map
Our Stories: Gerry and Joe
Jim Boate Hill – Trail Opening**

News Release

Ontario Updating Nuclear Emergency Response Plan

Province Seeking Feedback on Proposed Changes

May 15, 2017 2:30 P.M.

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Ontario is inviting the public to **comment** on proposed changes to the province's nuclear emergency response plan.

The plan details Ontario's response to nuclear and radiological events, and is regularly reviewed and tested through a strong partnership with federal, provincial and municipal stakeholders. Management and staff from the province's nuclear facilities also play a key role in developing and updating the plan. Beginning today, the plan will be posted on both the **Regulatory Registry** and **Environmental Registry** for 60 days to allow all interested parties to review the plan and provide comments.

Proposed changes are based on new international recommended practices, Canadian Standards Association standards, and lessons learned from previous international incidents and provincially-run emergency exercises and modelling.

In addition, Ontario is establishing a new advisory group, made up of national and international experts in nuclear safety and emergency management, to review and consider all responses to the plan and provide recommendations on how best to reflect feedback in the updated version.

Quick Facts

- Ontario coordinates nuclear emergency planning for five nuclear installations. Their corresponding designated municipalities are responsible for enhanced planning: Durham Region and Toronto (Pickering nuclear generating station), Durham Region (Darlington nuclear generating station), Kincardine (Bruce Power), Laurentian Hills/Deep River (Chalk River Laboratories), Amherstburg (FERMI 2).
- Ontario's CANDU nuclear reactors have an exceptional safety record. The reactors include several safety system checks that would mitigate damage in the event of a natural disaster. All reactors are licensed and regularly inspected by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.
- The province is responsible for the off-site (the area outside the boundary of a nuclear facility) response to a nuclear emergency. Onsite security of nuclear facilities is the responsibility of the federal government and facility operators.
- Ontario's most recent nuclear emergency response test was [Exercise Huron Resolve](#) in October, 2016, when more than 30 emergency response organizations successfully tested their nuclear response plans and procedures related to the Bruce Power site.