

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2017
Highlights**

Public Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on recent and forthcoming OPG activities in the community. OPG employee contributions to local charities, plans for March break, continued participation in the Bring Back the Salmon program, and other activities were mentioned.

Pickering Business Plan for 2017

Brian McGee provided an overview of Pickering Nuclear's strategic direction for the year. He said that 2017 is arguably the most significant year in the history of the site, as the plant prepares to provide backup power during the Darlington refurbishment and plans for the potential extension of commercial operations beyond 2020 (currently expected to be technically and financially viable).

Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO)

John Byard reviewed DEMO's extensive communications activities in 2016 and presented a preview of the program for 2017, including communications and public education as well as drills, exercises and training courses. The main thrust this year will be a nuclear emergency exercise for Pickering Nuclear.

Emergency Preparations Planning at OPG

Richard Hadden presented an overview of the structure and activities of the OPGN Emergency Response Organization (ERO), which maintains facilities on and off-site. It conducts drills and exercises to confirm effectiveness of emergency plans and liaises with off-site authorities. Richard reviewed the ERO's work programs for 2016 and 2017.

Intervention at CNSC Hearing on PWF Licence Renewal

Council members decided to compose a letter of intervention for the CNSC hearing on this matter in April. This letter will be discussed at the February meeting.

Petition Regarding Extension of Pickering Operations

A CAC member talked about a petition to the Government of Ontario supporting the extension of Pickering Nuclear operations to 2024 and a related website.

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Pickering CAC:

Maggie Ballantyne
John Earley
Donna Fabbro
Keith Falconer
Bill Houston
Donald Hudson
Tim Kellar
Pat Mattson
Zachary Moshonas
Mike Sawchuck
Ralph Sutton
Deborah Wylie

Regrets:

Jim Dike
Dinesh Kumar
Greg Lymer
Moe Perera
Helen Shamsipour
Kira Shan
Dan Shire

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Ian Azevedo
Richard Hadden
Brian McGee
Glenn Pringle

DEMO

John Byard

PDA:

Francis Gillis
John Vincett

Topic #1: Correspondence

CAC Facilitator John Vincett noted that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has issued their final newsletter for 2016. Link to the newsletter on their website: <https://www.nwmo.ca/~media/Site/Files/PDFs/2016/11/22/11/44/NewsletterV1432016EN.ashx?la=en>.

John also passed around a carved duck by Jim Harkness, a token of appreciation that will be forwarded to Kevin Heritage, who recently retired from the CAC after representing Ajax on the Council for 15 years.

Topic #2: Review of Minutes

Council members reviewed the minutes of our last meeting in November 2016. Regarding the response to the first question on page 10 (How do Aboriginal people living near the proposed DGR site feel today?), there was a call to change the word “educating” to “working with,” so that the statement becomes: “ OPG is working with Aboriginal leaders...” With this change the minutes for November 15, 2016 were approved.

Topic #3: Site Update

Site Vice President Brian McGee presented a very brief site update, as he would be covering more site news in his Business Plan presentation later in the evening.

Brian noted that Unit 4 is in a brief planned unbudgeted outage. OPG took the unit down on Jan. 4. The outage was scheduled for 75 days but is currently four days ahead of schedule. Preliminary inspection results indicate no problem, so there will likely be an early return to service. The other five active units (1,5,6,7, and 8) are operating at or near full power.

Topic #4: Public Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins, Manager of Corporate Relations and Communications at Pickering Nuclear, presented an update on recent and forthcoming OPG activities in the community:

- On Dec. 15, the Generating Change Gate Collection campaign at the Pickering Nuclear site raised \$3500 for local charities, including Herizon House, the Salvation Army's House of Hope, and St. Paul's on the Hill Community Food Bank.
- Pickering employees also made generous food and toy donations in support of the Durham Regional Police (DRPS) Food and Toy Drive.
- Carrie-Anne and her team are currently planning the March Break program, which will include educational and environmental programs for families across the Region, with many community partners, among them Let's Talk Science and Windreach Farm.
- OPG will be participating at the annual Canadian Nuclear Association conference in Ottawa in February.
- The next edition of Neighbours Newsletter will be distributed in March.
- OPG continues to partner with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters in the “Bring Back the Salmon” program. OPG also continues to host local schools to be part of helping to raise salmon eggs in the hatchery at the Pickering Information Centre. This spring, the plant will be hosting Bayview Heights Public School.

- Defuelling, the first major phase of refurbishment of Darlington Nuclear's Unit 2, has been completed safely, event-free and ahead of schedule. Over 86 days, 6,240 fuel bundles were removed from 480 fuel channels and safely discharged and stored.

Carrie-Anne responded to Council questions:

- *Not all of the fuel bundles at Darlington's Unit 2 would be fully used up on removal. Where do those unused bundles go?*
Those bundles would be declared used and treated as such. When the Unit is started up again, all the bundles inserted will be completely new. The used fuel bundles are removed from the reactor and placed in a water-filled “bay” at the Darlington site. Fuel bays look like a swimming pool but are built of reinforced concrete, lined to prevent leaks, and designed to withstand earthquakes. The used fuel bundles are stored underwater for at least ten years while their heat and radioactivity decline.
- *I understand that OPG has responded to three questions from the federal Minister of the Environment asking further information about the proposed Deep Geologic Repository for low and intermediate level nuclear waste. When do you expect to hear back from the federal government?*
(Brian McGee said that OPG anticipated hearing back before the end of January. A full report of the government's response will be carried on the OPG website.)

Topic #5: Pickering Business Plan for 2017

Brian McGee talked about Pickering Nuclear's plans for 2017 (Appendix 1). He provided an overview of the site's strategic direction for the year, based on operational excellence, project excellence, financial strength and social licence to operate.

Brian remarked that 2017 is arguably the most significant year in the history of the site, as the plant prepares to provide backup power during the Darlington refurbishment and plans for the potential extension of commercial operations beyond 2020 (currently expected to be technically and financially viable). The site is also preparing for the end of commercial operations in terms of: managing impacts across OPG and on the community; safe storage; decommissioning; and continuing the Repurposing Pickering Project (next step is evaluating commercial viability and ease of implementation of suggested activities).

Brian noted that, in terms of human performance, productivity, teamwork, and work management, 2015 was the best ever in site history. But 2016 was “a pretty close second.” The focus of 2017 will be achieving total excellence in performance. Brian remarked that whether the extension of Pickering operations beyond 2020 goes ahead is highly dependent on the performance of the Pickering staff. “We have to prove ourselves every day,” Brian remarked.)

Under the current business case, if the extension of operations at Pickering goes ahead, all

six units will operate until 2022; two units would then shut down and four units would operate to 2024. Brian cited the benefits of continued operations in terms of savings for electricity consumers, jobs across Durham Region and significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

OPG plans to submit a relicensing application for Pickering Nuclear in August 2017. During CNSC hearings in 2018, interventions of support and of challenge are expected.

Brian responded to Council questions:

- *How do you measure human performance?*
This is an area of measurement we struggle with. Ultimately, we are an energy production company. Our safety and efficiency in energy production is the key measure.
- *You mentioned that, as a result of improvements in technology, small modular reactors could well play an important role in future energy production. How would this work?*
They would provide electrical production but it is also possible that, ultimately, we will transition to a hydrogen economy. Because of the chemistry of heavy water, there is a hydrogen technology capability that could evolve through this route. Some world class research has been done at Chalk River Laboratories. This technology can convert electricity to stored energy. It's a technology that we haven't even begun to tap.
- *You stated that one of the long-term goals for 2021 is maintaining OPG's 30 percent generation price advantage for the benefit of customers. How does the generation price relate back to consumers?*
OPG is suppressing the overall electricity cost for consumers 40 to 45 percent, depending on the energy price of the day.
- *What is the future role of out-of-province sources of energy?*
We have to wait and consider what infrastructure would be needed to make that work. We must also remember that this would be a political decision, not one that would be made by OPG.

Topic #6: Durham Emergency Management Office (DEMO)

Emergency Management Coordinator John Byard presented a preview of the DEMO program for 2017 (Appendix 2). Key points:

- The DEMO program is based on the provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The program covers all types of civil emergency, not just nuclear events.
- DEMO's information management will focus on getting the right information to the right

people at the right time versus sending all the information to everybody.

- DEMO's program for 2017 features a number of drills, exercises and training courses; the main thrust this year will be a nuclear emergency exercise for Pickering Nuclear.
- Training delivery for Regional staff includes:
 - Basic emergency management
 - Incident management system
 - Emergency Operations Centres (courses for senior and middle management)
 - Social services (e.g. counselling following a traumatic event)
 - Regional Control Group (courses for DEMO executives)
 - School board workshop on nuclear preparedness
- Changes to the Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP): Province is looking to update the Plan; e.g. it may expand the contingency plan to 20 kilometres.
- Region-wide expansion of public alerting (including an opportunity to provide information confidentially)
- Communications and public education: Regional website redevelopment project, making it accessible for all ages; continue to strengthen social media project; community events; and more.

John also reviewed DEMO's extensive communications activities during 2016, including seasonal public service announcements (PSA's), newspaper ads, radio and television interviews, postcard mailings, foyer displays at Regional headquarters, presentations for seniors and handouts of DEMO brochures. DEMO also participated in the three OPG community information sessions, Clarington Family Day (7,000 to 8,000 attended over the course of the day), Oshawa community and Durham District School Board safety days.

The DEMO website had 10,563 visits in 2016 with 18,542 page views. The Office conducted nine social media campaigns, reaching a total of 287,902 people on Facebook and Twitter.

John remarked that OPG's black flashlight, enclosing a compact nuclear safety guide and distributed widely throughout Durham Region, was a particularly effective communications vehicle.

He also noted that there are developments under way through the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the provincial Emergency Management Organization and federal authorities responsible for various aspects of safety and safety regulations. Each of those has concepts that they are interested in revisiting regarding nuclear emergency management. This means that, although the DEMO is currently comfortable that it meets all requirements, it is possible that there could be changes that will require some reorganization.

John responded to Council questions:

- *What level of communications technology does the Region employ?*
We have state-of-the-art equipment. For internal communications, the police and fire departments can talk to each other. OPG is planning to be included in our communications systems, and we have satellite phones through which we can talk to the Province and first responders.
- *In the event of an ice storm or of a heavy rain with the potential to cause flooding, what does DEMO do?*
Five of us share a rotation for monitoring the situation. We direct postings from Environment Canada, OPG and other organizations. For weather specific events, we are in contact with police, and one of us is on call at all times.
- *Do you coordinate with other regions to learn from each other?*
Yes, we have conferences, including teleconferences anticipating weather events. For example, this morning we sent out information about ice. Sometimes, we send information that just says “be careful” about potential effects of forthcoming weather.
- *Are there any backup generators for telephone systems?*
Towers for the radio system are backed up. Back up for cell phones is the responsibility of the providers, who have a good record in this regard.
- *You mentioned that there are a number of different possible rule changes that would affect DEMO. Is there some kind of coordinating body that ensures that these changes are internally consistent?*
Some of these suggested changes arise as a result of matters brought forward at CNSC Hearings and through other channels of communication with governments by groups and individuals concerned about public safety issues. Different agencies try to respond to these comments by reviewing their practices and regulations. (Ian Azevedo, Senior Manager of Emergency Preparedness at OPG, noted that there is a coordinating committee that operates to reconcile different agency initiatives to ensure that proposed changes work effectively together. In addition, the province draws the various players together a couple of times a year for additional discussions, always with the focus on improving public safety in the event of an emergency.)

Topic #7: Emergency Preparations Planning at OPG

Richard Hadden, Section Manager, Emergency Preparedness, OPG Nuclear, presented an overview of the structure and activities of the OPGN Emergency Response Organization (ERO) (Appendix 3). The ERO maintains facilities on and off-site. It conducts drills and exercises to confirm effectiveness of emergency plans and liaises with off-site authorities—CNSC, Province, Durham Region, City of Toronto, etc.

Richard reviewed the ERO's work programs for 2016 and 2017.

Richard responded to Council questions:

- *Do you conduct emergency drills?*
Yes, we have some drills announced for this year. (Ian added that OPG conducts drills every year, including during off hours. As mentioned by John Byard, a regional exercise this year will be based at Pickering Nuclear.)
- *As shifts change at Pickering and Darlington, there is a steady stream of cars entering or leaving the sites. Wouldn't this present a major problem in the event of an emergency?*
We coordinate emergency travel plans with the Region. (Brian noted that any event at the nuclear stations would be slow in unfolding, so traffic delays would not be a significant issue.)

Topic #8: Intervention at CNSC Hearing on PWF Licence Renewal

As discussed at the November meeting, OPG has applied to renew the operating licence of the Pickering Waste Management Facility in 2018. In light of the proposed extended operations at Pickering, there will be a need for the site Waste Management Plan to be updated to account for the additional fuel that will need to be placed in dry storage. This will include some new storage infrastructure to provide additional capacity. Because the licensing timing is different between the WMF and the power reactors, the CNSC will hold a public hearing on the application in April. John asked if the Council is interested in filing an intervention letter.

The Council expressed an interest in intervening and, given that the meeting will take place in Ottawa, agreed that the intervention should be in writing only.

It was agreed that the Council should discuss the letter at the February meeting. In the meantime, PDA will put together a rough draft of the letter based on CAC points, made at previous meetings, about OPG waste management performance and communications with Council members.

Topic #9: Petition Regarding Extension of Pickering Operations

A CAC member talked about a petition to the Government of Ontario supporting the extension of Pickering Nuclear operations to 2024 and a related website, www.pickering2024.com. The member noted that the website was developed by the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council, which includes workers involved in all aspects of nuclear energy, from uranium mining to the production of power. The site presents a nuclear workers' perspective. It corrects what the Council member described as misinformation put out by some NGOs and features a petition supporting what the site describes as the Ontario Government's decision made one year ago to extend Pickering operations. The member noted that the website and petition have been referenced by local politicians and the Mayor of Pickering. CAC members can access the site

and sign the petition if they wish.

Topic #10: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 4.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 6 pm
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
(supper available at 5:30 pm)