

Ontario Power Generation: Darlington

Community Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Attendees:

Jim Boate, Councillor Steven Cooke, Jim Cryderman, Mary Anne Found, Sheila Hall, Mary Novak, Pat Pingle, Brian Duncan (OPG) and Jennifer Knox (OPG).
Absent: Brenda Metcalf

Agenda and Review of Minutes

Site Update/Darlington

Brian Duncan

Brian provided an update on Darlington operations, noting that safety performance has been very good at Darlington. Lessons learned by recent safety issues at Pickering (trips, falls and other low-trending events) are being evaluated for lessons learned. Employees will receive safety reminders prior to the upcoming Daily Savings time change; as conventional safety studies demonstrate there is up to a 3x greater risk of accident/injury following the time change. Three units are currently running at 100 per cent full power (the fourth, Unit 2, is undergoing refurbishment).

There will be a 12-day outage in November on Unit 3, to address corrosion of cooling coils (hold lake water). Four to five cooling coils will be replaced, with the remainder being replaced during U3 refurbishment. The corrosion is caused in part by a combination of zebra mussels and lake temperature changes. Zebra mussel activity makes the lake water clearer, which allows the sun to penetrate further down into the lake, increasing the temperature in the depths of the lake, which in turn increases the algae. This activity increases the rate of corrosion.

Refurbishment is still tracking ahead of schedule and under budget. Pressure tube cuts have been completed and the bellows cut is to follow. The reactor looks very different, there is a lot of open space inside the reactor building. As always, OPG is focused on safety, particularly contractor safety, including working at heights and tethering of tools. As contractors become more experienced working around the site, safety performance should improve.

The Park/Holt bridge construction projects previously underway and observed by the CAC at the last site bus tour are now complete.

Q. Are you prepared for more algae runs?

A. Due to Darlington's intake structure design, we are less impacted by algae runs than Pickering. At Darlington the greatest impact is in November, when the temperature decreases, causing the weeds to die and float down to the bottom of the lake, which can create a challenge for our intake structure.

Q. How has lake temperature changed?

A. As power plant operators relying on the lake for cooling water, we keep a close eye on lake temperature, and specifically the mean temperature changes. Since 1990, the average peak lake temperature has been creeping up. At 45 feet down into the lake, we can see temperatures around 25 degrees. This year the peak arrived later, in September, and we are seeing the higher peaks sustained for longer periods of time. While this has no implications on reactor safety, it does affect efficiency.

Q. While refurbishment on Darlington Unit 2 is underway, what portion of the waste is transferred to the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF)?

A. Low and intermediate level waste from the project is processed at the WWMF. We always strive to reduce waste, a good example being the re-tube waste processing building, which contains equipment that can cut or crush certain reactor components to reduce volume prior to being placed in shielded storage containers.

Q. Would there be any updates on the progress at the Fukushima Daiichi site?

A. Currently, the site is challenged with groundwater flow. The layout of the site means that groundwater is running downhill and into the plant, where it can become contaminated and then must be stored. The engineers there are now using an innovative technique often used by the petrochemical industry – an ice wall – which would deflect the groundwater away from the plant. In general, water management has been a challenge for their station.

Public and Community Affairs Report

Jennifer Knox

This December, a two-day emergency preparedness exercise termed Exercise Unified Control will take place on December 6/7 at Pickering. The exercise is designed to test emergency preparedness both on and off-site in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency. The drill is similar to Darlington's Exercise Unified Response, which the CAC committees observed. The Local Media Centre will be activated, and once again more than 34 provincial, federal and municipal agencies will take part. Committee members are invited to attend the launch as well as take part in the exercise on Day 2 to evaluate communications.

Beginning Nov. 6, updated Emergency Awareness Kits (an update of the 'flashlight' brochure) will be mailed to residents and businesses within 10 km of

both Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations gets underway. The kit includes an updated preparedness brochure, a pen light, and a checklist magnet in a hard case folio that is designed to store EP materials as well as KI pills. An accompanying awareness campaign will include print ads, radio, and digital ads.

Pickering relicensing hearings will take place in 2018. More information will be shared at our upcoming joint meeting, however as with any regulatory proceeding, public input is welcomed and the CNSC website will have updated information on the process to register interventions for the hearing. Day 1 will take place in Ottawa on April 4, and Days 2-4 on June 26-28 in the community.

The fall testing of the Public Alerting Sirens is complete. At the information centre, we received four calls; three of whom were checking to make sure it was a test, and one caller suggesting that the testing should be advertised on TV in form of a banner at the bottom of the screen. This information will be passed along to Durham Emergency Management Office.

The latest Refurbishment newsletter has been issued. While it was distributed to the CAC group directly, members may also sign up online to be added to the contact list.

Waterfront Trail Update & Discussion

Jim Boate

The trail now goes from Lake Superior (Sault Ste. Marie) to Cornwall. Sign improvements are underway, with coordination between the Waterfront Trust, the Municipality of Clarington and OPG. Suggestion to include Durham Trails in future discussions.

Improvements have been made to the area on Bobolink Hill include grass cutting, plantings and renovation of the gazebo. There is potential for a re-opening in the spring.

End of meeting

Handouts:

Darlington Neighbours Newsletter

Darlington Refurbishment Newsletter

Emergency Preparedness Mailer