

**Pickering Nuclear Generating Station
Community Advisory Council
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2017
Highlights**

Site Update

Brian McGee presented a brief site update.

Public Affairs

Carrie-Anne Atkins presented an update on OPG involving elementary school students in the Bring Back the Salmon program, OPG's Safety Assessment Summary Report to the CNSC in support of the Pickering Waste Management Facility licence renewal, plans for the March Break Madness program and other community activities.

Darlington Refurbishment

Sorin Marinescu presented an update on the Darlington refurbishment project, noting that the project is currently ahead of schedule.

Finalization of Intervention Letter

Council members approved a final draft of their intervention letter to the CNSC regarding OPG's application for a licence renewal for the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF).

Review of CAC Activities 2016

John Vincett presented a review of Council activities during 2016. Council members suggested a number of topics for discussion in 2017.

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Community Advisory Council
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Pickering CAC:

John Earley
Keith Falconer
Natalie Harder
Bill Houston
Donald Hudson
Greg Lymer
Pat Mattson
Cody Morrison (for Deborah Wylie)
Helen Shamsipour
Dan Shire
Ralph Sutton

OPG:

Carrie-Anne Atkins
Sorin Marinescu
Brian McGee

PDA:

Francis Gillis
John Vincett

Regrets:

Jim Dike
Donna Fabbro
Tim Kellar
Dinesh Kumar
Zachary Moshonas
Moe Perera
Mike Sawchuck
Kira Shan

Topic #1: Review of Minutes

Regarding the January minutes, it was noted that the wrong year was indicated in the highlights and in the opening page. This was corrected to 2017.

On page 4, the first of two questions directed at Carrie-Anne Atkins was: "Not all the fuel bundles at Darlington's Unit 2 would be fully used up on removal. Where do those unused bundles go?" It was pointed out that the response to this question did not clearly address partially used bundles. Carrie-Anne referred the question to Sorin Marinescu, who said that those bundles would be declared used, regardless of the level of remaining, unused fuel; they would be treated like fully used bundles. It was agreed that the following two sentences would be inserted at the beginning of the response: "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."

With these changes, the CAC minutes for January 17, 2017 were approved.

Topic #2: Site Update

Senior Vice President Brian McGee presented a site update:

- Units 1, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are operating at full power. Unit 8 is running at slightly degraded power. Units 2 and 3 are in safe storage.
- The forced loss rate at the site was less than half a percent for January. There has been no forced loss rate to date in February.

Topic #3: 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:

- OPG continues its involvement in the Bring Back the Salmon program in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. The station is again hosting some local schools in helping to raise salmon eggs in the hatchery at the Pickering Information Centre. On January 31st, Grade 6 students from Bayview Heights Public School were hosted. All students hosted by OPG will learn about the life cycle of salmon and then, in the spring, be part of the release of the salmon fry into Duffin's Creek, which is an identified waterway for increasing the salmon population.
- Two weeks ago OPG submitted to CNSC the Safety Assessment Summary Report in support of the Pickering Waste Management Facility licence renewal. This report is now available on the OPG website, www.opg.com. The CNSC will hold a public hearing on April 11 or 12 to consider OPG's application. More information is available at the PWSMF licence renewal web page: <http://www.opg.com/generating-power/nuclear/nuclear-waste-management/Pages/PWSMF-Licence-Renewal.aspx>
- The next edition of Neighbours Newsletter will be distributed in March. Among other items, it will include information on OPG's March Break Madness program.
- The Public Affairs Department is currently planning the March break program, March 13 – 17, which will include educational and environmental activities for families across the Region with many community partners, including:
 - Let's Talk Science
 - Pickering Library Little Bits program
 - Windreach Farm
 - Durham Farm Connections
 - Purple Woods Conservation Area

- Claremont Conservation Area Field Centre
- Durham Children's Safety Village
- The City of Pickering and Municipality of Clarington

OPG will be participating in the annual Canadian Nuclear Association conference in Ottawa, February 22 – 25. OPG representatives will be talking about Darlington refurbishment, the extended operations at Pickering and the Deep Geologic Repository in the Bruce Peninsula. The program includes three days of seminars with industry and nuclear facilities.

Topic #4: Darlington Refurbishment

Sorin Marinescu, a director at Darlington working on refurbishment, presented an update on the project (Appendix 1).

Sorin noted that performance on the project has started off on the right foot. Refurbishment of Darlington Unit 2 began October 14, 2016 as promised. The Unit was shut down on October 15 and defueling completed on January 11, which is 26 days ahead of schedule. There were no safety or human performance issues during this process and \$16 million in savings.

The next, extremely important step in the project is islanding the unit. This entails creating a safe, precise work area separated from the operating units through a system of physical barriers and controls.

Sorin referred Council members to www.opg.com/darlingtonrefurb.

Sorin responded to Council questions:

- *You mentioned that 700 workers are involved in the refurbishment process. I presume that at least some of them went through the reactor model for training.*
Yes, we started training with the model two and a half years in advance of actual work on Unit 2.
- *As you point out, the project has been quite successful to date and is now ahead of schedule. Will this alter plans for the future?*
Yes and no. Down the road there might be unexpected challenges. If that happens, we can “use up” the days gained earlier. The more days we gain in the beginning the more we can fall back on if unexpected delays occur in the future.
- *Is it easy to move up the schedule when days are gained through excellent performance?*
It is doable. The direction from OPG was to be ready 30 days in advance.
- *What steps will you be taking to store new low and intermediate level nuclear waste arising from the refurbishment?*
There is a program in place to minimize low and intermediate level waste.

- *You mentioned that the target for work was 113 days, but the actual work took only 89 days. How much money was saved by better-than-target performance?*
We saved \$16 million, but it works both ways; if there are unexpected delays, we lose money.

CAC Facilitator John Vincett remarked that performance on the project is very encouraging.

Topic #5: Finalization of Intervention Letter

Council members approved a final draft of their intervention letter to the CNSC regarding OPG's application for a licence renewal for the Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF).

Topic #6: Review of CAC Activities 2016

CAC Facilitator John Vincett presented a review of Council activities during 2016 (Appendix 2). He covered key discussion themes during the past year, continuing themes, and topics anticipated for 2017. He also cited areas for improvement such as the need to be sure that there is adequate background information for a changing membership and continued steps to ensure the CAC reflects various parts of the community.

Council members discussed the role of the CAC in addressing issues raised by the anti-nuclear movement.

A member who attended the CNSC 101 information session in Pickering on February 14 said that the role of the Commission was well presented. About 50 members of the public attended, he said, a good 25 of whom were anti-nuclear activists. Two women in elephant costumes distributed leaflets. They created a disturbance, and police had to be called in. The member remarked that the CAC could invite a spokesperson for the anti-nuclear movement to talk to the Council but would need to be ready for disruptive behaviour.

Another member commented that certain industry critics will “never be satisfied,” while a third remarked that, if a credible case could be made for a cheaper source of energy for the province than nuclear power, he would have no problem with Pickering Nuclear “closing down tomorrow.”

Council members suggested other topics for discussion during 2017:

- A CAC member asked if improved air quality in Ontario in recent years was entirely due to the closing down of OPG's coal-fired plants or if factory closures in the province had played a significant role. John Vincett said that both actions would have been contributors to the improvement in air quality; but there was no question that the shut down of Ontario coal plants had played a significant role. It may be possible to get a

representative of the Ministry of Energy to address this question. We should also note that there have been avoided health care costs from the shutting of the coal plants.

- A representative of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) to tell the Council about their nuclear studies program. A student from UOIT could also provide a perspective.
- A representative of the provincial government to talk about what is going to happen to this site after Pickering Nuclear is shut down. John said that question cannot really be answered until the timeline of the licence to operate is sorted out, but it could be put on the list of long-term issues.
- A politician from Queen's Park to present the government's perspective on energy policies. John noted that we have asked representatives of the Ontario government to speak to the Council in past years, but although we get a positive response and even possible agreements on dates this has not happened. Part of the problem would seem to be that potential changes in policy intervene, and the other part is that it is probably not realistic to expect a Minister to find the time to address a small group like the Council, given their busy schedules. We have had successful presentations from the IESO and the OPA, though, over the years and this may be the more realistic option.
- A member noted that a member of Durham Nuclear Awareness was invited to attend the CAC but never showed up. He remarked that the activities of anti-nuclear groups were "all about theatre." Carrie-Anne noted that Durham Nuclear Awareness representatives do present at Durham Nuclear Health Committee (DNHC) meetings, and so any member of the CAC could attend that Committee meeting to understand that perspective.
- A member noted that the CAC has discussed Durham evacuation plans at two meetings in the past. He noted a report in the press last week that they tried an evacuation plan in California, and it took much longer than anticipated. He realizes that a nuclear emergency would allow much more time for evacuation than, say, threat of a flood, but thought that an update on the Durham evacuation plan would be timely. John noted that we do have a regular interaction with Durham Emergency Management Office and suggested that when the new evacuation regulations come out (likely in the spring of 2017), which may well change some of the parameters, that would be a good time for this topic to be revisited. It was noted that the public has shown very little interest in evacuation plans. Two years ago, for example, there was very little public reaction to the distribution of iodine pills.

A Council member reminded participants that a petition to the Government of Ontario supporting the extension of Pickering Nuclear operations to 2024 was on line at www.pickering2024.com.

Topic #7: CNSC News

For selected news items from the CNSC, please see Appendix 3.

**Next Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 6 pm
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre
(supper available at 5:30 pm)**

NOTE: There will be no CAC meeting in March.