

DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC) MINUTES

Location

Virtual

Date & Time

June 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee was held on Friday, June 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams. This meeting was also livestreamed on <https://www.eventstream.ca/events/durham-region>. Comments and questions from members of the public observing the meeting can be emailed to dnhc@durham.ca.

Attendance

Members

Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) (Chair)
Anthony DiPietro, DRHD
David Keene, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Raphael McCalla, Ontario Power Generation (OPG)
Loc Nguyen, OPG
Dr. Kirk Atkinson, Ontario Tech University (OTU)
Veena Lalman, Public Member
Adam de Grosbois, Alternate Public Member
Alan Shaddick, Alternate Public Member

Presenters & Staff

Dianne San Juan, DRHD (Secretary)
Helen Tanevski, DRHD
Anjali Pandya, DRHD
Dragan Popovic, OPG
Ebraheem Waraich, OPG
Lindsay Hamilton, OPG
Roger Inacio, Region of Durham, IT- Service Delivery

Regrets

Caitlyn Paget, DRHD
Deborah Kryhul, Public Member
Jane Snyder, Public Member
Susan Ebata, Public Member
Dr. Lubna Nazneen, Public Member
Hardev Bains, Public Member
Dr. Seewoosunkur Gopaul, Public Member
Bill Rattan, Alternate Public Member
Madison Kidd, Youth Public Member
Madisen Wood, Youth Public Member

Dr. Robert Kyle opened the virtual meeting and welcomed everyone.

Land Acknowledgement by Dr. Kyle.

Dr. Kyle mentioned that observers who have questions concerning presentations should email or discuss their requests with Dianne San Juan, DNHC Secretary, at dnhc@durham.ca.

Dianne will follow-up with each of the presenters after the meeting with the observers' questions. Dianne will report back to Dr. Kyle the outcomes of the questions received.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the April 19, 2024 meeting were adopted as written.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Commission Decision Issued on Darlington New Nuclear Project Environmental Assessment

Received from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on April 22, 2024, to announce the Commission's decision that the existing environmental assessment for the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) is applicable to the General Electric Hitachi BWRX 300 reactor, the reactor technology selected by Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

This information was emailed to DNHC members on April 22, 2024.

For more information, visit [Independent Commission determines environmental assessment for Ontario Power Generation's Darlington New Nuclear Project is applicable to the selected reactor technology - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/nuclear-safety-commission/news/2024/04/commission-decision-darlington-new-nuclear-project.html)

3.2 Radioactive Wastes: The Questions Multiply with Dr. Gordon Edwards

Received a 2024-04-27 letter from a Durham Region resident named A.J., asking DNHC members to watch this archived webcast video of a 2023-04-21 presentation in Dryden, Ontario by Canadian nuclear expert Gordon Edwards, Ph.D.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YzHT4c4WCc>

Please note: The Durham Region Health Department does not endorse this link.

4. Presentations

All meeting presentations will be made available on the [Council and Committee Meetings Calendar](#). PDF files for each presentation can be accessed using the agenda HTML link and a video recording of the meeting can be viewed using the webstreaming link that will be provided approximately two weeks after this meeting date.

4.1 Progress Report by OPG's Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) Team Concerning its Future Development of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) at the Darlington Site

Presented by Dragan Popovic, SVP SMR Execution, OPG

Highlights of the presentation included

- Earth moving activities – excavation, site preparation, grading of soil within the Darlington SMR site discussed; access to Darlington waterfront trail remains through a rerouted path
- Sequence of licences and approvals by the CNSC for new nuclear generating facilities in Canada discussed; all activities to date are under the License to Prepare Site; next step is the License to Construct process
- The CNSC has announced the Licence to Construct will be reviewed during a two-part hearing, beginning in fall 2024. Part two will be scheduled for January 2025 and will take the form of a public hearing in the community where oral and written interventions by stakeholders, Indigenous Nations and the public will be heard.
- Project timeline and scope of the Licence to Construct Work discussed; includes construction of one power block, including structures, systems and components; cannot load fuel into the reactor without Licence to Operate
- Environmental protection while executing this project - the Environmental Management Protection Plan implements control measures to eliminate, manage, reduce or mitigate risks associated with DNNP
- Conventional and Radiological Safety - OPG will maintain overall responsibility and oversight for safety under the proposed license; there will be no radiological work or nuclear substances associated with this phase of the project and construction activities are not expected to result in radiation doses to workers or the public
- Once CNSC announces the date and instructions for the 2025 public hearing on the Licence to Construct application, there will be an opportunity for comments during the hearing process through written and oral interventions
- For more information, visit opg.com/newnuclear

Questions

- Dr. Kyle: Do you expect one or both of the public hearings to be in Durham Region?
- Answer: The public hearing in January 2025 is expected to be in Durham Region. The first hearing may be in Ottawa, OPG is awaiting confirmation.

4.2 Progress Report by OPG Concerning its Refurbishment of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (NGS)

Presented by Ebraheem Waraich, Project Director, Refurbishment Execution, OPG

Highlights of the presentation included

- Overview of Darlington refurbishment discussed; refurbishment is an important project for energy generation as well as isotope production
- Refurbishment outage schedule discussed
- Unit 2 refurbishment complete and operating at full power – able to generate Molybdenum-99 (MO-99) and Yttrium-90 (Y-90); working through approvals from CNSC and Health Canada
- Unit 3 refurbishment complete and operating at full power – significant savings in time as lessons learned from Unit 2 refurb were incorporated; able to generate Cobalt-60 (Co-60)
- Unit 1 and 4 refurbishments ongoing
- Unit 1 refurb overlapped with Unit 3 and return to service in Q4 2024
- Unit 4 refurb overlapped with Unit 1 and return to service late 2025/early 2026

Questions

- Dr. Kyle: What are control hold points and if the ideal return to service is Q4 2024, how many hold points are there between now and then?
- Answer: Unit 1: Reactor control hold points (RCHPs) 1, 2 and 4 are completed; 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 are upcoming; some are regulatory and CNSC is involved and updated on progress to ensure RCHPs are in alignment.
- Dr. Kyle: Regarding isotope production approvals from CNSC and Health Canada, when are approvals expected and when is full production expected?
- Answer: Generating and recovery approvals for isotopes are pending.

5. Communications

5.1 Community Updates at Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear

Lindsay Hamilton, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations and Projects, Corporate Affairs, OPG provided community updates for Pickering and Darlington NGS:

- April – Earth Week Activities
 - Environmental Stewardship Pickering hosted a clean up and planted native trees and shrubs at Alex Robertson Park
 - Courtice Secondary School annual cleanup of trail
 - In partnership with CLOCA, community tree planting in Bowmanville West Side Conservation Area

- Biodiversity Programs at Darlington Site
 - Courtice Secondary School students in the construction and manufacturing program visited Darlington for the annual nest box maintenance; example of other student projects include building turtle rafts and butterfly hotels; a tour followed
 - Electrify Education – Pickering and Darlington NGS staff visited 8 schools, 1 more planned before end of school year
 - Bring Back the Salmon program – OPG-sponsored educational hatchery program; final tiers of program in May and June; released salmon fry in local tributaries in both Pickering and Darlington
- September 14, 2024, 10 AM - 4 PM – Community Power Expo, Open House at Darlington Energy Complex

6. Other Business

Dr. Kyle discussed the following Committee updates:

1) Dates for the rest of the 2024 DNHC meetings are as follows:

- September 13, 2024
- November 29, 2024

2) Reminders:

- All meeting presentations will be made available on the Regional Council and Committee Meetings Calendar. This can be navigated to via the “DNHC meetings, agendas, presentations and minutes” tab on our webpage durham.ca/dnhc. A video recording of meetings can also be viewed using the webstreaming link in the Regional calendar. The video and presentation files for this meeting will be made available approximately two weeks after this meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Date & Time

September 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Virtual via Teams

8. Adjournment

2:47 PM