

DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC) MINUTES

Location

Virtual

Date & Time

February 2, 2024 at 1:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee was held on Friday, February 2, 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)
Lisa Fortuna, DRHD
Caitlyn Paget, DRHD
Phil Dunn, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Raphael McCalla, Ontario Power Generation (OPG)
Loc Nguyen, OPG
Dr. Kirk Atkinson, Ontario Tech University (OTU)
Susan Ebata, Public Member
Dr. Seewoosunkur Gopaul, Public Member
Deborah Kryhul, Public Member
Dr. Lubna Nazneen, Public Member
Alan Shaddick, Alternate Public Member
Bill Rattan, Alternate Public Member
Adam de Grosbois, Alternate Public Member
Madison Kidd, Youth Public Member
Madisen Wood, Youth Public Member

Presenters & Staff

Dianne San Juan, DRHD (Secretary)
John Henry, Region of Durham, Regional Chair and CEO
Sendi Struna, DRHD
Helen Tanevski, DRHD
Marilena Michienzi, OPG
Mary LaChapelle, Durham Emergency Management (DEM)
Michael Munro, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO)
Lindsay Hamilton, OPG
Roger Inacio, Region of Durham, IT- Service Delivery

Regrets

Janice Dusek, Public Member
Veena Lalman, Public Member
Hardev Bains, Public Member
Jane Snyder, 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 November 17, 2023 meeting were adopted as written.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Darlington Nuclear Community Advisory Council, Notice of Participation at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Public Hearing 2024-H-02 and Written Submission

Received from Francis Gillis, Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited on December 13, 2023; a copy of the submission to the CNSC which outlines the Darlington Nuclear Community Advisory Council's (CAC) intent to appear at the Public Hearing 2024-H-02 and to provide the associated written submission to support the applicability of the Darlington New Nuclear Project Environmental Assessment and Plant Parameter Envelope to the Selected Reactor Technology, the General Electric Hitachi (GEH) BWRX-300 reactor.

3.2 Additional information to support CNSC November 17, 2023 DNHC Presentation

Information received from Nicole Simon (Senior Project Officer, Advanced Reactors Licensing Division, CNSC) on December 21, 2023 and emailed to the Committee on December 22, 2023.

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 Potassium Iodide (KI) Tablet Distribution Program

Presented by Sendi Struna, Manager, Health Protection Division, Durham Region Health Department

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Potassium Iodide tablets
- Legislative requirements
- KI Tablet distribution program
- Public Awareness Campaign

Key messages from awareness campaigns:

- Anyone within 10 KM of a nuclear generating station (NGS), should have a supply of KI tablets
- Anyone within 50KM can order a FREE supply of KI tablets
- In the highly unlikely event of a nuclear emergency, KI tablets are key to keeping you safe
- Call the DRHD if you have any questions or need assistance with ordering tablets: Durham Health Connection Line: 905-668-2020 or 1800-841-2729 or email health@durham.ca

More information: PrepareToBeSafe.ca

There were no questions following the presentation.

4.2 Durham Emergency Management (DEM) Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Program

Presented by Mary La Chapelle, Acting Deputy Director, DEM

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Nuclear program activities and 2024 plans were discussed
- Details of DEM's nuclear program activities, such as nuclear plans, training, exercises and drills, committees and working groups, public education and awareness and alerting, were discussed
- At The Ready Campaign launched during Emergency Preparedness week, 2023; order your guide from <https://forms.durham.ca/Order-your-At-The-Ready-guide>
- Collaborating with the City of Toronto and OPG on the Nuclear Public Education Plan with an integrated communications framework to amplify messaging, identify synergies, coordinate strategic decisions, and share resources
- Conducted annual test of the public alerting landline mass notification system; public alerting outdoor sirens were also updated and tested successfully

Questions:

Adam de Grosbois: Is there a reason we don't utilize the Emergency Alert system (similar to Amber Alerts)? A lot of folks don't have landlines anymore and rely strictly on cellphones. It would also help those who are not able to hear the alerts.

Mary La Chapelle: If there was a nuclear emergency, or any type of emergency, Alert Ready would be included in the response and is issued by Province of Ontario. Alerts are geotargeted for the impacted area. DEM has a process in place for this.

Lubna Nazneen: What kind of exercises are done at schools in Durham?

Mary La Chapelle: DEM reviews nuclear plans from school boards to ensure they meet legislative requirements and are in line with Durham's plan and the provincial plan. Individual school boards are responsible for their own nuclear exercises. Planning involves evacuation of children and parents meeting their children at the temporary holding center.

Susan Ebata: Is there reference in the plan for areas outside 10 km but within 50 km of the NGSs? Are there procedures included in any of the plans (provincial, Durham, or Darlington or Pickering NGSs) for the Town of Whitby?

Mary La Chapelle: For areas outside of 10 km, it would fall in the ingestion planning zone or contingency planning. The response would depend on the event and which zone is impacted, along with other considerations.

Sendi Struna: Distribution of KI tablets is not mandatory outside of 10 km and within 50 km of NGSs. KI tablets are free for these residents and they are able to order them online. Please visit the PrepareToBeSafe.ca website, you can enter your postal code and it will tell you if you are eligible for KI tablets. Alternatively,

you may also call the Durham Region Health Department, Durham Health Connection Line: 905-668-2020 or 1800-841-2729 or email health@durham.ca. In the event there was a nuclear incident, there would be time to determine if and when an area needs to ingest KI tablets. The Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Kyle will decide if it is necessary to take KI tablets. This information will be disseminated through all media channels.

Mary LaChapelle: The province would lead the response to a nuclear event and provide instructions for KI tablets. DEM will share these instructions with the impacted communities, using the indoor public alerting system, social media, websites, etc.. The Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP) outlines roles and responsibilities, but it is not so detailed, to allow for flexible response in different scenarios.

4.3 Progress Report by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) concerning its Significant Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Activities in 2023 and its Plans for 2024 in Durham Region in Ontario

Presented by Marilena Michienzi, Section Manager, Site Emergency Preparedness Implementation, OPG

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Introduced new Senior Manager for Emergency Management, Ghulam Khawaja
- Enterprise Emergency Management mandate, 2023 highlights, and 2024 priorities were discussed
- OPG practices the response capability through 10+ simulated emergencies every year and maintains plans, equipment, and facilities to ensure this capability is sustained
- Exercise Unified Command 2023 – a 3-day large scale nuclear exercise at Pickering NGS; to test interoperability and elements of each organization’s respective emergency plans; included participation from OPG, CNSC, provincial EMO, Durham Region, Pickering Fire and Centennial College; each NGS must do this every three years
- KI tablets were distributed through orders via preparetobesafe.ca and the New Neighbors program (for residents within 10 km of the NGS), as well as orders from interested members of the public within the 50 km zone
- In 2024, will continue with drills and exercises, maintaining partnerships with external partners, Indigenous engagement, investigating new innovations and technologies, new small modular reactor design emergency management practices, transition plans for emergency response at the Pickering NGS, and KI program

Reports are available at opg.com/nuclearsafety.

There were no questions following the presentation.

4.4 Updates by Emergency Management Office (EMO), concerning its Significant Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Activities in 2023 and its Plans for 2024 in Durham Region

Presented by Michael Munro, Senior Manager, Nuclear, Radiological & Scientific Response Programs, EMO

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Nuclear Emergency Management Program (NEMP), activities in 2023 and deliverables in 2024
- Nuclear exercises in 2023 and upcoming nuclear exercises were discussed
- International Atomic Energy Agency Emergency Preparedness Review – 6-year audit of the NEMP and all elements; report is available on the IAEA website
- In the process of revising and updating the PNERP – concurrently working on First Nations and Indigenous Community consultations and stakeholder/public consultations in 2024; cabinet approvals and publication in targeted for winter 2024/2025
- Working on a province first recovery plan, between all ministries as well as municipal and utility partners

There were no questions following the presentation.

5. Communications

5.1 Community updates at Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear

Lindsay Hamilton, Manager, Corporate Relations, Pickering Nuclear provided community updates for Pickering and Darlington NGS:

- Pickering refurbishment announcement for units 5-8
- Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) – CNSC hearing wrapped up Jan 2024, regarding applicability of the environmental assessment for the project to the selected SMR technology; Durham representatives presented as willing host communities; CNSC decision is required before OPG can move further to a license to construct for the project; hearing outcome is expected in the next few months
- Bring Back the Salmon educational hatchery launched on January 26th, in partnership with Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA)
- Build what you can event – OPG teams built structures with non-perishable food items; food collected were donated to Feed the Need Durham
- December 2023 food and toy drives

- February 21 and 28 – Pickering is hosting community information sessions; information about these sessions is available on www.opg.com
- Neighbours Newsletter to be delivered to homes shortly

There were no questions received during the meeting.

6. Other Business

Dr. Kyle discussed the following Committee updates:

1) Dates for 2024 DNHC meetings are as follows:

April 19, 2024

June 21, 2024

September 13, 2024

November 29, 2024

2) Other updates

- 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 be viewed using the webstreaming link provided approximately two weeks after each meeting. Posting of the video recording for this meeting will be delayed due to technical issues.

7. Next Meeting

Date & Time

April 19, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Virtual via Teams

8. Adjournment

2:50 PM