

DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC) MINUTES

Location

Virtual

Date & Time

September 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee was held on Friday, September 13, 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.

Please note: We experienced audio issues for the livestream at the beginning of the meeting, where there was no audio until 10:37 into the meeting. These meeting minutes will cover anything that observers may have missed during this time.

Attendance

Members

Dr. Robert Kyle, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) (Chair)
Anthony DiPietro, DRHD (Co-chair)
Caitlyn Paget, DRHD
Philip 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)
Deborah Kryhul, Public Member
Jane Snyder, Public Member
Susan Ebata, Public Member
Veena Lalman, Public Member
Adam de Grosbois, Alternate Public Member
Alan Shaddick, Alternate Public Member
Bill Rattan, Alternate Public Member
Madisen Wood, Youth Public Member
Madison Kidd, Youth Public Member

Presenters & Staff

Dianne San Juan, DRHD (Secretary)
Helen Tanevski, DRHD
Anjali Pandya, DRHD
Lindsay Parks, OPG
Ali, Esmaeily, OPG
Analiese St.Aubin, OPG
Shernette Muccuth Henry, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)
Susan Bailie, CNL

Roger Inacio, Region of Durham, IT- Service Delivery

Regrets

Dr. Lubna Nazneen, Public Member
Hardev Bains, Public Member
Dr. Seewoosunkur Gopaul, Public Member

Dr. Robert Kyle opened the virtual meeting and welcomed everyone. Dr. Kyle advised that Anthony DiPietro, Director, Health Protection will be chairing this meeting. Dr. Kyle mentioned that observers who have questions concerning presentations should email them to dnhc@durham.ca.

Land Acknowledgement by Anthony DiPietro.

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the June 21, 2024 meeting were adopted as written.

3. Correspondence

3.1 June 23, 2024 - Letter received from Durham resident AJ Kehoe, regarding opposition to nuclear power by Indigenous groups

3.2 July 24, 2024, - Update on the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) received from Ontario Power Generation (OPG)

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) announced hearing dates to consider OPG's application for a Licence to Construct. A two-part public hearing will take place virtually in October 2024 and in-person (with a virtual option) in January 2025 at the Ajax Convention Centre. More details on the hearing and the process for participation can be found at [Notice of Public Hearing - OPG - Application for a licence to construct one BWRX-300 reactor for its Darlington New Nuclear Project \(cpsc-ccsn.gc.ca\)](https://www.cpsc-ccsn.gc.ca/notice-of-public-hearing-opg-application-for-a-licence-to-construct-one-bwr-300-reactor-for-its-darlington-new-nuclear-project)

3.3 August 13, 2024 - Update on the DNNP received from OPG

DNNP License to Construct Hearing Interventions are due November 4, 2024. For more information, visit [Notice of Public Hearing - OPG - Application for a licence to construct one BWRX-300 reactor for its Darlington New Nuclear Project \(cpsc-ccsn.gc.ca\)](https://www.cpsc-ccsn.gc.ca/notice-of-public-hearing-opg-application-for-a-licence-to-construct-one-bwr-300-reactor-for-its-darlington-new-nuclear-project).

3.4 August 15, 2024 - Notice received from CNSC advising of direct mail to residents regarding public hearing for a proposed nuclear facility

The CNSC advised they are mailing a flyer to communities in Durham Region in early September, 2024. The purpose is to inform residents of the CNSC's upcoming public hearings to consider OPG's application for a licence to construct one BWRX-300 reactor at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.

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 concerning the results of the 2023 Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) for Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations (NGSs)

Presented by Lindsay Parks, Environmental Advisor, OPG

Highlights of the presentation

- EMP key objectives
- EMP Sampling Locations in Darlington and Pickering
- Critical groups and sampling locations for Darlington and Pickering discussed
- Radiation dose examples discussed using graphic from CNSC; 1 mSv (millisievert) is the annual public dose limit, 1000 mSv is when you would start to see radiation sickness; dose from a cross-Canada flight is more than dose living next to a nuclear power plant
- Darlington 2023 Public Dose – 0.7µSv represented by Farm Adult; similar to 2022 public dose
- Pickering 2023 Public Dose – 1.5 µSv represented by Urban Resident Adult; similar to 2022 public dose
- Derived release limit (DRL) explained; if emissions are maintained below DRL, annual dose limit will never be reached
- All radiological emissions to air and water were at or below 1% of their DRLs for both stations
- Emissions and EMP data discussed
- In Darlington, increases in tritium to air emissions in 2023 were attributed to tritium removal facility and corrective actions implemented
- In Pickering, tritium to air emissions decreased in 2023 (compared to 2022)
- Darlington: Tritium in water supply plants measured in Oshawa and Bowmanville; measured below OPG's commitment of 100 Bq/L and Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 7000 Bq/L
- Pickering: Tritium in water supply plants measured in FJ Horgan and Ajax; measured below OPG's commitment of 100 Bq/L and Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard of 7000 Bq/L
- Non-Radiological Emissions monitoring discussed; final 2023 results not ready yet

- In 2022, there were no ozone-depleting substances releases in excess of 100 kg at Darlington or Pickering and no regulatory non-compliances with sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, hydrazine or ammonia emissions
- Fish impingement & entrainment monitoring report discussed; offsetting programs discussed
- Audits & Inspections; conducted by MECP and OPG's Nuclear Oversight department
- More information and reports are available at opg.com

Questions

- No questions received during the meeting

4.2 Progress report by OPG concerning the results of the 2023 Groundwater Monitoring Program (GWMP) at Darlington and Pickering NGSs

Presented by Ali Esmaily, Senior Manager Environment, OPG

Highlights of the presentation

- Annual program objectives discussed
- Pickering program overview provided
 - An annual set of water level readings was completed in 2023 to confirm groundwater flow direction; remain unchanged in 2023
 - Tritium is the focus of groundwater quality and site boundary quality discussion; no new sources of tritium in the area, and the legacy concentration of tritium present is undergoing decay;
 - Increase in tritium concentration in groundwater observed in groundwater monitoring wells closest to unit 6 reactor building in late 2020 and 2021; main cause was identified to be a defective valve; repairs were successful and this area will continue to be monitored
 - Site boundary groundwater quality data, as well as data from nearby water supply plants, supports the conclusion that there were no off-site impacts from tritium in groundwater in 2023
- Darlington program overview provided
 - Groundwater flow direction discussed
 - The presence of tritium in groundwater are due to a historical spill that occurred in 2009; these concentrations are decreasing; at the property boundary, concentrations are low and indicate no adverse offsite impacts
- Reports and additional information are available at opg.com

Questions

- No questions received during the meeting

4.3 Cancer in Durham Region - Data Tracker Update

Presented by Anjali Pandya, Epidemiologist, Health Analytics and Research Team, Durham Region Health Department

Highlights of the presentation

- Durham Region Cancer Data Tracker - launched in 2022, available at durham.ca/cancerstats
- Dashboard presents measures of morbidity and mortality, various measures discussed
- Top five most common new cancers and most common cancer deaths discussed
- Cancer incidence rates in Durham Region for selected cancers from 2010 to 2020 discussed;
- All cancer mortality rates in Durham Region by year discussed;
- We are seeing similar trends in common cancers overall and mortality rates have been stable over the last decades for all ages and sex
- Incidence (15-29yrs, 30-49yrs, 50+yrs) and mortality (50+yrs) for certain age groups continues to be higher than Ontario for 2010-2020 combined
- Mortality for bladder, breast, lung, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma continues to be higher and for colorectal and liver continues to be lower than Ontario
- Compared to Ontario, Durham Region had lower incidence of brain/CNS and kidney cancers and higher incidence for multiple myeloma
- Caveats of data discussed
- Cancer prevention measures discussed
- Resources: Public Health Ontario ([Snapshots](#)) and Cancer Care Ontario ([Ontario Cancer Profiles](#)); Durham is part of the Central East LHIN

Questions

- Dr. Kirk Atkinson: In your presentation, you mentioned external factors and that in certain cancers, Durham Region is slightly elevated compared to the Ontario average. External factors can include the time it takes for cancers to develop, reasons why people look to move to Durham Region, etc. What can we do to make the data more definitive?
- Answer: There is a section on the Data Tracker where the public can ask questions. The Data Tracker is intended to replace PDF reports and improve access and make the data more accessible and interactive. At the moment, it doesn't consider context, such as risk factors, behavioural factors, or protective factors. Interpretation of the data is important and we are working on improving this part of the Data Tracker. For example, thyroid cancer is higher, however Durham Region doctors are actively screening for this cancer, therefore are finding more of it. There are methods that can be used to investigate to confirm and make certain data more definitive; more context and more details can be provided and it is in the work plan to attempt to make the tracker more comprehensive.
- Loc Nguyen: Does the Data Tracker program record information like residency time in Ontario and Durham?

- Answer: No, we currently do not have access to this data. A deeper analysis can be done, for example when investigating cancer clusters, as needed.

4.4 Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Environmental Monitoring

Presented by Shernette Muccuth Henry, Manager, Public Communications, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and Susan Bailie, Manager, Project Transition, CNL

Highlights of the presentation

- Port Hope Area Initiative: Port Hope and Port Granby Projects status updates discussed
- Strategic priorities for CNL discussed
- Project history and timelines discussed; involves cleanup of historic waste on behalf of the Government of Canada
- Historic low level radioactive waste in soil was spread throughout the town; problem was first identified in mid-1970s
- Port Hope project and timelines discussed; includes low level radiological waste and industrial waste; bulk of the waste is in safe storage; remaining sites will be closed off in 2025 and 2026
- Port Hope long-term waste management facility will go to 2030; contains 1.9 million cubic metres of waste
- Environmental assessment follow-up program discussed
- Annual compliance monitoring reports are available online
- Port Granby project in Phase 3; low-level radioactive waste remediation is complete; site activities and restoration discussed
- Long-term environmental maintenance and monitoring discussed
- Wastewater treatment plant operated to collect and treat leachate from containment site, as well as groundwater
- Decrease in project activity as project moves to long-term phase
- Safety oversight activities discussed, including environmental monitoring studies
- More information available at PHAI.ca

Questions

- No questions received during the meeting

5. Communications

5.1 Community Updates at Pickering Nuclear and Darlington Nuclear

Analièse St.Aubin, Senior Manager, Corporate Relations and Projects, Corporate Affairs, OPG provided community updates for Pickering and Darlington NGS:

Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP)

- DNNP Licence to construct hearings will be held on Oct 2024 (virtually) and Jan 2025 (in-person at Ajax Convention Centre with virtual option); deadline to submit an intervention to the CNSC is November 4, 2024
- OPG has applied to the CNSC to amend the current License to Prepare Site, to allow non-nuclear site preparation work to continue while awaiting a decision on the site construction license

Darlington Refurbishment Project

- 86% complete in its 10 year execution phase

Pickering NGS

- Pickering license amendment hearing took place in June 19-20, 2024 at the Pickering Recreation Complex, to extend operation of units 5-8 to end of December 2026; awaiting decision from CNSC; webcast of hearing is available on the CNSC website

Community engagement activities discussed

- Site tours
- Tuesdays on the trail, at both Pickering and Darlington sites
- September 14, 2024, 10 AM - 4 PM – Community Power Expo, Open House at Darlington Energy Complex

6. Other Business

1) Adam de Grosbois, our Alternate Public Member representing Clarington, has advised of his resignation from the DNHC. We thank him for his participation and wish him all the best.

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

November 29, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Virtual via Teams

8. Adjournment

2:49 PM