

## **DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC) MINUTES**

### **Location**

Virtual

### **Date & Time**

February 7, 2025 at 1:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee was held on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams.

Comments and questions from members of the public observing the meeting can be emailed to [dnhc@durham.ca](mailto: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)  
Philip Dunn, MECP  
Raphael McCalla, Ontario Power Generation (OPG)  
Loc Nguyen, OPG  
Deborah Kryhul, Public Member  
Veena Lalman, Public Member  
Dr. Lubna Nazneen, Public Member  
Susan Ebata, Public Member  
Jane Snyder, Public Member  
Alan Shaddick, Alternate Public Member  
Bill Rattan, Alternate Public Member

#### **Presenters & Staff**

Dianne San Juan, DRHD (Secretary)  
Helen Tanevski, DRHD  
Roger Inacio, Region of Durham, IT- Service Delivery  
Mary LaChapelle, Durham Emergency Management (DEM)  
Paulo Correia, DRHD  
Ghulam Khawaja, OPG  
Aditi Bhardwaj, OPG  
Lindsay Hamilton, OPG

#### **Regrets**

Caitlyn Paget, DRHD  
Dr. Kirk Atkinson, Ontario Tech University (OTU)  
Hardev Bains, Public Member  
Dr. Seewoosunkur Gopaul, Public Member

Madisen Wood, Youth Public Member  
Madison Kidd, 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](mailto: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 29, 2024 meeting were adopted as written.

### **3. Correspondence**

There has been no correspondence received by Dr. Robert Kyle's office since the last DNHC meeting.

### **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 Durham Emergency Management (DEM) Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Program Update**

Presented by Mary La Chapelle, Acting Deputy Director, DEM

#### **Highlights of the presentation**

- Overview of nuclear program activities, including: nuclear plans, training, exercises and drills, committees and working groups, and public education and alerting
- Nuclear Emergency Support Function for Emergency Worker Centres and Regional Traffic Management Centre (draft) discussed

- Training: Emergency Management Certificate for completion of EM100, EM200, EM300 and Certificate for Emergency Workers for completion of Radiation Basics and Emergency Workers Centre training discussed
- Launched new Nuclear Emergency Preparedness guides and continue to encourage residents to order At the Ready guides
- Public alerting campaign for those within 10 km of the Darlington and Pickering nuclear generating stations (NGS) to improve awareness of the testing and where to obtain more information; took place on October 29-30, 2024; involves indoor (phone calls) and outdoor alerting (sirens)
- 2025 priorities include:
  - Annual review and revision of the Durham Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (DNERP)
  - Implement any changes related to the updated Provincial Nuclear Emergency Response Plan (PNERP)
  - Participation in the Ministry of Transportation-led evacuation planning subcommittee and develop site-specific plans for Pickering and Darlington
  - Deliver training to Regional staff and other organizations that may have to respond to a nuclear radiological emergency
  - Updating Nuclear Public Education Plan, in collaboration with City of Toronto and OPG
- More information and reports are available at [durham.ca/nuclearpreparedness](https://durham.ca/nuclearpreparedness)

## Questions

Dr. Kyle: Do you have any insight as to the status of the revised PNERP?

Mary La Chapelle: DEM was given a short window to provide comments on the revised PNERP and has not heard further

Dr. Kyle: Would it be reasonable to expect we would have a revised PNERP for the upcoming exercise in the fall?

Mary La Chapelle: As long as the PNERP is received with sufficient time to implement in our DNERP, we would want to exercise that.

Loc Nguyen: Who can take the training and is there a fee (courses DEM provides for emergency workers or workers participating in command centre, etc.)?

Mary La Chapelle: The training discussed during this presentation is for the Regional control group and staff responding in the emergency operations centre (staff that will be responding in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident and facilitating the Regional response).

Jane Snyder: Does IHSA (safety organization) work with your team for businesses to be aware of your emergency training? Any comments about making emergency training available for businesses?

Mary La Chapelle: A general emergency preparedness course for the public has been developed and available upon request. It is about a 2-hour presentation. If interested, please email the DEM office.

Dr. Kyle: DNHC can also help facilitate this, please email [DNHC@durham.ca](mailto:DNHC@durham.ca).

Deborah Kryhul: Regarding the 3-part training, did all individuals complete the first portion?  
Mary La Chapelle: All 125 individuals completed the 3 courses in 2024.

## 4.2 Potassium Iodide (KI) Tablet Distribution Program Update

Presented by Paulo Correia, Manager, Health Protection Division, Durham Region Health Department

### Highlights of the presentation

- Provided an overview of KI tablet program and how it works
- What is KI and how does it help protect human health in the unlikely event of a radioactive release at a nuclear generating station: KI fills the thyroid with stable iodine which prevents the uptake of radioactive molecules to decrease the risk of thyroid cancer
- Instruction for taking KI tablets will come from the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, in conjunction with the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre and the local Medical Officer of Health
- Discussed requirements for KI tablets to be available for those in the detailed planning zone (DPZ) (within 10 km of a nuclear generating station (NGS)) and ingestion planning zone (IPZ) (within 50 km of a NGS)
- In the DPZ, over 200,000 KI tablet packages mailed to residents within Pickering NGS (PNGS) and Darlington NGS (DNGS)
- Able to order KI tablets through [PrepareToBeSafe.ca](https://www.preparetobesafe.ca) or obtain from a designated pharmacy if within 50 km; will need to enter postal code to determine if eligible
- Health Department also distributes KI tablets to first responders and institutions – current supply will expire in 2029
- KI public awareness campaigns in January, May and September discussed; May campaign is the largest of these campaigns and coincides with Emergency Preparedness Week; targets residents and businesses in DPZ and IPZ
- Durham Health Connection Line – staffed by experienced public health inspectors knowledgeable in KI and its distribution, and can assist the public with ordering KI tablets when requested
- For more information, please go to: [durham.ca/KI](https://durham.ca/KI)

### Questions

Deborah Kryhul: The KI distributed to 200,00 households in 2015 will be expiring in 2025. Are they going to be remailed or are households required to request them?

Paulo Correia: We are currently working with OPG and planning for redistribution.

Susan Ebata: Does this program supply schools and daycares?

Paulo Correia: Schools and daycares are part of the institutions that we support; we provide all institutions within 50 with KI tablets; we also provide childcare centres with a newsletter (e.g., [WeeCareFallWinter2024](#)), where we share information, including KI updates.

### **4.3 Progress Report by Ontario Power Generation (OPG) concerning its Significant Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Activities in 2024 and its Plans for 2025 in Durham Region**

Presented by Ghulam Khawaja, Senior Manager, Emergency Preparedness, OPG

#### **Highlights of the presentation**

- Enterprise Emergency Management (EEM) mandate and regulatory requirements discussed; they ensure that OPG is ready to respond to any nuclear emergency by practicing their ability to respond through drills and exercises throughout the year
- Nuclear emergency preparedness incorporates over 1200 OPG staff who are also trained and drilled as emergency response officers
- Ontario's nuclear emergency framework discussed; PNERP briefly discussed
- Actions the province can take in the event of a nuclear emergency discussed, such as different alert types and orders (sheltering in place, evacuations, ingestion of KI pills, and ingestion control measures)
- Public notification through different means, such as Alert Ready, outdoor sirens, radio, TV, and social media discussed
- OPG's tiered response structure, including site management centres and Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) discussed
- At a minimum, OPG executes 10 drills annually to evaluate every duty response team at DNGS and PNGS
- Every 3 years, each at Darlington and Pickering, a full-scale inter-operability exercise is completed involving regional and provincial authorities
- 2024 accomplishments and 2025 priorities, including drill and exercise schedule discussed
- Visit [opg.com/nuclearsafety](https://opg.com/nuclearsafety) for general information on nuclear safety
- Visit [youtu.be/PGTgxXAJSpS](https://youtu.be/PGTgxXAJSpS) for a brief summary of an OPG nuclear emergency exercise

#### **Questions**

There were no questions received during the meeting.

### **4.4 Darlington Relicensing Update**

Presented by Aditi Bhardwaj, Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs, OPG

#### **Highlights of the presentation**

- Power reactor operating licence (PROL) granted by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is set to expire this year
- Darlington submitted a licence renewal application in May 2024
- March 26, 2025: Part 1 license renewal hearing (virtual – technical review, CNSC only)

- May 8, 2025 deadline for intervenor submissions
- June 24-26, 2025: Part 2 license renewal hearing (in-person – CNSC and intervenors)
- OPG is requesting a 30-year license period and proposing a Periodic Safety Review every 10 years
- Darlington is completing the fourth and final refurbishment of their units - major component replacements and system upgrades ensure safe and reliable operations
- Annual CNSC Regulatory Oversight meetings – reporting, enforcement and regular assessment of compliance and performance
- Darlington Relicensing process workshops
  - Monday, March 17: Stakeholder Workshops
  - Thursday, March 20: Public Information Session (Virtual at 6:30 p.m.)
  - Thursday, April 3: Public Information Session (6:30 p.m. at the Darlington Information Centre)
  - Stop in at our Public Information Centre: open Monday-Friday (9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
  - Give us a call: 905-623-7272/Toll Free: 1-800-461-0034
  - Visit us at one of many upcoming community events: across Durham Region ([opg.com/durham](http://opg.com/durham))
  - Visit our website ([opg.com](http://opg.com)): to learn more about Darlington’s application
  - Visit the CNSC website: to learn about the CNSC public hearing process ([cnscccsn.gc.ca](http://cnscccsn.gc.ca))

## Questions

Dr. Kyle: In Europe, are there periodic check-ins with the Commission, where intervenors would have opportunities to comment on performance? What happens over the 30 years, in terms of oversight and public input, if the 30-year licence is approved?

Aditi Bhardwaj: In France and Romania, their plants do not have a fixed licence; they look at periodic safety reviews every 5 or 10 years. Periodic Safety Reviews are required to be submitted by utilities to their regulators. In Canada, the annual CNSC regulatory oversight review meetings can incorporate intervenor submissions, and the deadline for submission for this is 6 months prior to the meeting. The CNSC reviews all the submissions and poses these questions to the utilities.

Dr. Kyle: If a committee member wants to attend or participate in any of these relicensing events, visit [OPG.com/durham](http://OPG.com/durham) for more information.

Aditi Bhardwaj: OPG is happy to answer any further questions from committee members and can send an email directly to OPG or visit one of the stakeholder workshops.

## 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:

- Community engagement activities discussed such as the DRPS Food and Toy Drive
- Electrifying Education program – visited schools across the Region of Durham and will continue the program into 2025
- Bring Back the Salmon program aims to restore Atlantic Salmon to Lake Ontario and educate students on the Atlantic Salmon
- March Break Blitz – March 10-14 – various free programs, more information on [opg.com](http://opg.com)
- Neighbors Newsletter will be distributed in March
- Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) – license to construct hearing concluded in January 2025; update to be provided to DNHC once CNSC come to a decision

## 6. Other Business

1) Dates for the remaining 2025 DNHC meetings are as follows:

- April 25, 2025, 1:00 PM
- June 20, 2025, 1:00 PM
- September 26, 2025, 1:00 PM
- November 28, 2025, 1:00 PM

Meetings will continue to be held virtually via the TEAMS platform and available for the general public to observe via livestream at [www.durham.video](http://www.durham.video).

2) The Terms of Reference for the Durham Nuclear Health Committee is undergoing review by our committee members. An updated Terms of Reference will be uploaded on our website [durham.ca/DNHC](http://durham.ca/DNHC) at the conclusion of this review.

3) 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](http://durham.ca/dnhc). A video recording of meetings can also be viewed using the webstreaming link in the Regional calendar. The presentation files for this meeting will be made available approximately two weeks after this meeting.

## **7. Next Meeting**

### **Date & Time**

April 25, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Virtual via Teams

## **8. Adjournment**

2:10 PM