

**Community Liaison Committee  
Meeting Record**

**Meeting Date:** April 15, 2020

**BWXT:** Natalie Cutler, Director, Communications & Government Relations  
Jon Lundy, VP Strategy and Business Services  
Dave Snopek, Director, EHS & Regulatory Affairs  
Ted Richardson, Director, Fuel Operations  
Kathleen Augustin, Communication & Community Relations Specialist

**CLC Members:** J. Backler, R. Church, C. McCoy, J. Wickenden

**Absent:** N. Martin-Burtart, D. McNee,

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action Items</b>		
<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Status / Notes</b>
1. Review option to have someone from medical isotope division be a guest speaker at upcoming meeting	N. Cutler	Aiming for Q2 2020
2. Send media clippings.	N. Cutler	In progress
3. Share job posting for dedicated communications specialist to CLC when posted.	N. Cutler	In progress
4. Share a list of all key community locations 1-2 kilometers from the facility with CLC for review at the next meeting.	K. Augustin	In progress
5. Share infographics with CLC.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Ongoing

**DISCUSSION NOTES**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually. The meeting began with a roundtable of introductions, overview of the agenda and a safety moment. Prior to the meeting an orientation session for new members was held.

Natalie Cutler provided an update on BWXT NEC's Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licence renewal hearing which occurred March 2-6, 2020 in Toronto and Peterborough for BWXT NEC to renew its Class IB Fuel Facility Operating Licence. Natalie explained there were 71 interventions from the Toronto community, noting there were interventions from CLC members, the MP and MPP and community members and organizations. Natalie outlined the main concerns from the Toronto interventions: transportation of natural uranium dioxide powder and pellets, decommissioning plans for the site, insurance details and coverage, emergency preparedness, hydrogen storage tank, uranium emissions to air, water and soil and

transparency through BWXT NEC's public information program. Next, Natalie outlined the actions BWXT NEC President, John MacQuarrie committed to during the hearing. The first item is to hire a dedicated communications specialist at the Toronto facility. Natalie let the CLC know that she would share the job posting once it is live on BWXT's Careers webpage. The next item is to expand the Toronto CLC by recruiting more members from the community and civil service organizations to have more representation from the Davenport area. BWXT NEC is also currently reviewing requests to include more information on its public information website for increased transparency. Another action is to increase outreach and to make outreach more effective. At the hearing it was recommended that BWXT NEC consider doing door-to-door communication with neighbours. BWXT NEC plans to utilize more social media and outdoor signage to share information about the company. Natalie mentioned that with the current COVID-19 situation that door-to-door engagement is not feasible at the moment, however, the company is looking into this as an option once things return to normal. The next action item is for BWXT NEC to survey the community in 2020. Natalie let new CLC members know that BWXT NEC surveyed the community in 2018 and gained baseline data that will be helpful when analyzing results from the 2020 survey, which will be shared with the CLC. BWXT NEC also commits to improve Indigenous relationships through meaningful engagement. Additionally, the company will work to improve connections with schools and organizations in the Toronto community and will look for help from the CLC to identify key groups who should be kept informed. The last item is to connect with real estate associations to inform them about BWXT NEC's operations. Natalie highlighted that while we plan to reach out to real estate agents, that we cannot control whether or not they disclose the information to new buyers, but we will do our best to highlight the importance as it was an intervenor concern. It was suggested by a CLC member that BWXT NEC should outreach to local condo boards to provide information and opportunities to speak or have a table in the lobby to answer questions and introduce the company.

One of the CLC members provided an update about Western Technical Commercial School's recent success at their tournament, noting that the team won the Chairman's Award and was the first place alliance captain.

Next, Natalie outlined some changes to the CLC for 2020, first by highlighting there are three new members on the committee this year. She noted the company is planning to recruit more members in the summer from local organizations and would appreciate recommendations from the CLC. A CLC member recommended that BWXT NEC reach out to local schools and churches and Natalie committed to providing the CLC with a list of all key community locations 1-2 kilometers from the facility for review at the next meeting. Natalie also outlined that the company would like to better utilize the CLC to make more connections with the community so BWXT NEC can increase knowledge, transparency and gather feedback.

Dave Snopek then explained the information contained in BWXT NEC's 2019 Annual Compliance Report (ACR), which was submitted to the CNSC on March 30th, 2020 for review and is posted on BWXT NEC's website. He noted that the ACR is submitted to the CNSC annually and is a review of the performance in the year. Dave explained that later in the year, BWXT NEC will appear before the Commission for its annual public review. He explained that

the company also receives a rating in the 14 Safety and Control Areas by the CNSC as either fully satisfactory, satisfactory, below expectations, or unacceptable, noting that BWXT NEC received satisfactory rating in all 14 areas in 2018.

Dave informed the group about the Toronto air results, noting that the Toronto facility performs continuous monitoring for uranium through boundary monitoring and in-stack sampling. He explained that the in-stack samples are analyzed daily and verified externally by an independent laboratory. Dave let the group know that boundary samples are drawn at five positions located around the facility perimeter and these samples are analyzed externally by an independent laboratory. Dave explained that the boundary air monitor maximum concentration measurements continue to remain exceptionally low and well below the Action Level of  $0.08 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . A CLC member asked Dave whether uranium emissions in air change because of workload and Dave noted there is not much variation in production. Jon Lundy explained that from 2010 to 2012 there was an increased in production and there was a slight increase in emissions, noting that all emissions are well below regulatory limits. Dave continued to inform the group about the Toronto water results and explained that a small amount of water is used in the production process at the facility as well as used for laundry, cleaning floors and equipment and used in janitorial functions. He continued to note that the water is held in storage tanks in the facility where it is treated to remove uranium dioxide, tested, and only released in batches once the results confirm it meets regulatory requirements for release. The release limit for uranium water emissions set by the CNSC, is 9,000 kg/year, and the Toronto facility released 0.6 kg of uranium in 2019, which is a small fraction of the limit. Dave highlighted that some intervenors commented at the hearing and during tours that the BWXT NEC water treatment is the best practice for water control. Next, Dave explained the Toronto soil results noting that samples of surface soil are taken at 49 locations and then analyzed by an outside laboratory. He noted that the results for uranium concentration for all of the soil samples are well below the acceptable standard and that this is part of a defence-in-depth approach to measuring emissions and protecting the employees, public and environment. Finally, Dave discussed the estimated annual public dose in Toronto. The CNSC sets limits for annual public dose and BWXT NEC is at a small fraction of this limit. The estimated annual dose to a member of the public as a result of the BWXT operation is 0.02 mSv, which is far less than the CNSC's limit of 1 mSv per year for a member of the public. A CLC member mentioned that at the hearing many intervenors were concerned about uranium from the facility going out the stack and one particle entering the lung of a child or neighbour. Dave explained that all dose limits are protective of human health. He noted that there is more uranium in a dump truck of soil than emitted from the facility into the air and that the single particle theory and argument is not accurate. It was suggested by the CLC that BWXT NEC should find better ways to illustrate emissions and dose to members of the public. Natalie noted that this is something the company has been working on and will continue to do better and plans to share new infographic ideas with the CLC for feedback. A CLC member also asked why the dose to the public changed from 2018 to 2019 and Dave mentioned that is because there is variation in measuring very small doses and that all doses are very much below the public dose limit of 1 mSv.

Dave then informed the group of the 2019 results of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) which is implemented by the CNSC to verify that the public and environment around the facility is protected. The IEMP indicated that the concentrations of uranium in air and soil samples in Toronto were below regulatory guidelines and that no health or environmental impacts were expected. Dave referred to a map showing where soil and air samples were taken in proximity to the Toronto facility and a table that indicated sample results. He explained that air sample results were all “non-detect” for uranium, whereas soil sample results were similar or equivalent to background levels for uranium in soil. A CLC member asked about the soil sampling IEMP results from the Peterborough facility and why there was an increase in beryllium. Dave explained that the CNSC IEMP measurements of beryllium in soil at Prince of Wales Public School increased from 1.27 to 2.34 mg/kg from 2018 to 2019 and noted that the results were within the guidelines. He advised that there is no risk to the public as a result of these measurements of concentration and that the results are inconsistent with BWXT NEC’s air monitoring which confirm that the system is operating as designed and that emissions from the BWXT NEC Peterborough facility could not account for this apparent increase. Dave also noted that the CNSC recently directed CNSC staff to complete soil resampling for beryllium in the surrounding area of the BWXT NEC Peterborough facility. A CLC member then asked about the limits set by the CNSC and whether they will be reduced. Dave noted that the licence release limits are set by the CNSC and that under the new licence, release limits will be based on concentration and will be more conservative. He also discussed action levels that drive BWXT NEC to further reduce emissions.

Natalie then shared a new infographic, which Dave mentioned earlier in the meeting, for the CLC to review. The image shows a comparison that one dump truck filled with 10 cubic yards of soil contains approximately 18 grams of uranium and that in 2019, BWXT in Toronto released 7 grams of uranium into the air. A CLC member noted that this may not be as relevant for Toronto condo owners and Natalie highlighted that most construction sites would have soil and that the company appreciates feedback on infographics moving forward.

Following this, Natalie highlighted some of the media coverage from the licence renewal process and hearing. She explained that there are some vocal opponents, and specifically noted the use of Now Magazine and the Trent Arthur to communicate with residents. She also informed of groups in Toronto and Peterborough which use social media, flyers and have their own websites. She further advised that the company would share news articles about the Toronto site with the CLC. A CLC member asked if employees are leaving and how employees have been handling the negative media and community attention from the licence renewal process. Jon highlighted that employees have not been leaving and that employees seem frustrated with the misinformation being promoted, and that employees generally want the company to defend itself and the nuclear industry more aggressively. He noted that BWXT NEC has taken a less confrontational approach and is focused on providing thorough and scientific information to its communities rather than responding to each individual media story.

Kathleen highlighted BWXT NEC’s community giving and volunteerism in Toronto and asked the CLC members if they had any ideas for other organizations who would benefit from charitable giving. BWXT supports Western Technical Commercial School’s FIRST Robotics

program through a team sponsorship and a bursary, showing the photo from their most recent competition and a volunteer event where one of the Toronto employees participated. She further described the support provided to Pauline Junior Public School which is close to the facility. Kathleen noted that BWXT NEC also supports Ontario Tech University through a Women for STEM scholarship and highlighted that she and Natalie were fortunate to meet the student who received the scholarship this year and that a few employees from the Peterborough facility are mentors for students in their first year of the program. Next Kathleen mentioned that the company provides funding to the Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Community Health Centre which is a key centre for the Davenport community. Kathleen then noted that The Stop Community Food Center declined BWXT NEC's 2019 donation and asked the committee if they had suggestions for other food banks, or similar centres. CLC members provided feedback.

Natalie then informed the group that because of the COVID-19 situation the 2020 Community BBQ will be modified to occur at a later date and that more information will be shared at the next meeting based on guidance from the government.

Following this, Natalie asked the CLC if they had any suggestions for guest speakers, noting that in previous meetings we had guest speakers from the CNSC, OPG and Sussex and asked if the committee would be interested in a guest speaker on medical isotopes. This was well received by the CLC.

Natalie inquired if committee members were privy to any questions or concerns in the community regarding the licence renewal. The committee shared that they feel that people in the area aren't knowledgeable enough about the process and the operations and highlighted that this has been a challenging time for the industry with a recent alert and a popular television series about a nuclear incident in Russia. Natalie advised that BWXT NEC is working hard to address concerns in the community and plans to gather more feedback.

The meeting terminated. Next meeting to be in June, date to be determined.