

DURHAM NUCLEAR HEALTH COMMITTEE (DNHC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SCOPE

The DNHC shall act as a scientific and technical orientated committee primarily focused on nuclear emissions, nuclear wastes and other related topics by providing a forum for discussing and addressing potential radiation and environmental human health impacts with nuclear industry representatives who will connect directly with environmental human health experts and members of the public from the nuclear host communities and elsewhere in Durham Region.

MANDATE

1. To review, discuss, and improve DNHC's understanding of the radiological environmental performance of nuclear facilities and nuclear waste management facilities in Durham Region and the issues which govern them.
2. To collect, monitor, analyze, discuss, summarize and/or form opinions about available information, including that pertaining to environmental assessments, regarding the possible environmental human health impacts of the radiological emissions from the local nuclear facilities, nuclear waste management facilities and transportation of nuclear waste and to disseminate the results of this work to the public.
3. To identify deficiencies in information about environmental human health impacts of radiological emissions and to recommend directly to the nuclear industry and/or federal and/or provincial governmental representatives that appropriate research be conducted in order to effectively address these deficiencies.
4. To review and discuss unusual incidents at local nuclear facilities and related activities or other facilities using, generating or storing radioactive material that may have adverse environmental and human health consequences.
5. To address and resolve specific issues and concerns which may be related to, be associated with, or caused by radiological emissions from the nuclear facilities and nuclear waste disposal sites that are referred to the DNHC by the public, including local governments, health professionals, etc. or otherwise comes to the DNHC's attention.
6. To maintain an awareness of new or refurbished nuclear facilities in Durham Region and their potential environmental and health effects.
7. To review, discuss, and, if necessary, advise about emerging issues that may be associated with environmental and human health.

8. To receive a progress report on nuclear emergency activities in Durham Region at least annually.
9. The following subjects shall not be components of the DNHC's mandate:
 - a) Occupational health and safety
 - b) Nuclear power as an energy option

ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The DNHC shall report through the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health to the Health & Social Services Committee and the Regional Council.
2. If an environmental human health impact deficiency needs to be escalated, the DNHC may make recommendations, through the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health, to the Health & Social Services Committee and the Regional Council, which can endorse DNHC's recommendation and ensure that the nuclear industry and/or federal and/or provincial government and/or other stakeholders are informed of Council's decision regarding such matter.

COMPOSITION

The DNHC shall be composed of the following Members (or designates):

1. From the Regional Municipality of Durham:
 - a) Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
 - b) Director, Health Protection
 - c) Epidemiologist
2. From Ontario Power Generation:

Two representatives familiar with environmental and health issues at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations
3. From the public:
 - a) Nine Public Members who reside in either Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa, Pickering, or Whitby, and, if possible, three of whom reside in Ajax/Pickering and three of whom reside in Clarington;
 - b) Up to three Alternate Public Members who will represent absent Public Members; and
 - c) Public Members and Alternative Members, including up to two Student Members, shall be appointed by Regional Council as recommended by the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health in accordance with such factors as residence, availability, knowledge of and interest in nuclear science, fit with the DNHC's scope, and ability to function in a group setting.

4. From the Government of Ontario:

One representative from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5. From the Ontario Tech University:

One representative from the Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science

6. The DNHC shall also invite presenters and observers to attend and/or participate in its meetings, including representatives from:

- a) Canadian Environmental Law Association
- b) Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
- c) Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- d) City of Oshawa
- e) City of Pickering
- f) City of Toronto
- g) Durham Emergency Management
- h) Durham Nuclear Awareness
- i) Durham Region Community Growth and Economic Development Department
- j) Emergency Management Ontario
- k) Greenpeace Canada
- l) Independent Electricity System Operator
- m) Municipality of Clarington
- n) Nuclear Waste Management Organization
- o) Ontario Ministry of Energy and Electrification
- p) Ontario Power Generation
- q) Town of Ajax
- r) Town of Whitby

MEETINGS

1. Meetings shall be chaired by the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health or designate.
2. A quorum shall consist of nine Members as listed under Composition clauses 1 to 5.
3. The DNHC shall reach decisions normally by consensus.
4. DNHC meetings are held virtually five times per year. The meeting dates and times are posted on the Region's website and on durham.ca/DNHC. The public are welcome to attend meetings as observers, via the livestream link <https://www.durham.video/>.

5. The Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health shall appoint a Secretary to the DNHC to be responsible for ensuring that agendas are prepared, correspondence and minutes are recorded, distributed, posted and a suitable meeting place is secured and presenters are confirmed. The Secretary shall respond to requests for correspondence, presentations, reports, etc. to be placed before the DNHC and shall ensure that such requests are appropriate and properly aligned with the DNHC's scope and theme of future meetings. The Secretary shall make minor wording changes to the Terms of Reference as needed such as the names of organizations of presenters. The updated Terms of Reference will be posted on durham.ca/DNHC.
6. The unapproved minutes of DNHC meetings shall be added to a subsequent Council Information Package. DNHC approved minutes and agendas are posted on the Regional Calendar website and on durham.ca/DNHC.
7. Questions and answers at DNHC meetings should be limited in scope and focus on the content of the respective presentation and/or report.
8. All participants are expected to be courteous and respectful throughout the meeting.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1. When appropriate, the representatives of Ontario Power Generation and governmental/regulatory bodies shall ensure that all studies and other information relevant to the DNHC's mandate are made available to the DNHC.
2. When appropriate, the representatives of Ontario Power Generation shall ensure that all relevant technical reference material (e.g., nuclear and environmental performance and radiological emission data) is presented to the DNHC using a readily understandable format.

REVIEW of the TERMS OF REFERENCE

The DNHC shall review its terms of reference at least every 3 years. This frequency does not preclude substantive changes being presented to the Health & Social Services Committee and the Regional Council sooner if the need arises.

January 2025