

## Community Liaison Committee Meeting Record

Meeting Date: October 1, 2020

**BWXT:** Natalie Cutler, Director, Communications & Government Relations

Jon Lundy, VP Strategy and Business Services Ted Richardson, Director, Fuel Operations

Dave Snopek, Director, EHS & Regulatory Affairs

Kathleen Augustin, Communications & Community Relations Specialist

**CLC Members:** D. Gannon, J. Ingram, B. Roxburgh, J. Aherne.

Absent: None.

Guests: None.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

	Action Item	Responsible	Status / Notes
1.	Remind CLC about co-chair position and request any interested to advise before next meeting.	K. Augustin	Closed
2.	Share updated Terms of Reference with CLC.	K. Augustin	Closed
3.	Add discussion on safety scenarios to the agenda for the next meeting.	K. Augustin	Open
4.	Review utilizing radio and newspaper advertising options.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Open
5.	Share target audience list with the CLC for feedback.	K. Augustin	Closed
6.	Provide input on who else could be included in the target audience.	CLC Members	Ongoing
7.	Share virtual meeting / telephone town hall agenda with the CLC prior to meeting.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Closed
8.	Share 2020 survey details with CLC.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Closed
9.	CLC to review BWXT NEC's current website and provide feedback.	CLC Members	Open
10.	Share video content and infographics with CLC.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Ongoing
11.	Share social media plans with CLC.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Closed
12.	Provide information to CLC on beryllium sampling when available.	N. Cutler, D. Snopek and K. Augustin	Closed
13.	Have medical isotope guest speaker in 2021.	N. Cutler and K. Augustin	Open
	Book a call once CNSC soil sampling results are available.	K. Augustin	Open
15.	Share revised Terms of Reference with CLC for 2021.	K. Augustin	Open
16.	Send ROR details for CLC.	K. Augustin	Open



17. Share BWXT's medical isotope video with CLC.	K. Augustin	Open
18. Follow-up with CLC member who expressed interest in co- chair role.	K. Augustin	Open
19. CLC to review website FAQ and provide feedback and ideas on newsletter content.	K. Augustin	Open

## **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.

Natalie Cutler reviewed the action items from the previous meeting, noting that many of the action items were covered in this meeting. She marked the following items as complete: BWXT NEC to remind CLC about co-chair role, BWXT NEC to share updated terms with CLC, and BWXT NEC to share virtual event details, social media plan and survey details with CLC. Natalie noted that door-to-door outreach is currently on hold due to COVID-19 and that BWXT NEC is still reviewing utilizing radio and newspaper advertising. The CLC is still actioned to review the <a href="https://www.nec.bwxt.com">www.nec.bwxt.com</a> website and provide feedback.

Next, Natalie outlined recent CLC updates. She began by highlighting that the CLC terms of reference document will be reviewed and modified to be more flexible for participants and once this revision is ready that it will be shared with the CLC for input. She noted that there has not yet been a volunteer for the co-chair role and asked if anyone is interested to let us know. During the meeting, one CLC member expressed interest in the role and Kathleen noted she would follow-up with this member. The co-chair role will officially begin starting in 2021 and Natalie noted that more detail on the role will be included in the terms of reference. Natalie then explained that one CLC member, who had applied in the fall last year and accepted, hadn't attended any meetings and has chosen to defer their application to the 2021 year. Next, Natalie explained that BWXT is beginning its CLC recruitment for 2021 and will advertise through a multi-pronged approach to reach as many interested members of the community as possible, including its existing contact list. She asked if the CLC had any suggestions. Natalie then explained that BWXT would like to host a video tour for the CLC before the end of the year if possible as in-person tours are not an option right now with COVID-19 numbers rising. She noted that the company would like to have a call in November to discuss any remaining items, conduct an evaluation of the CLC and gather feedback. The CLC agreed on this plan and would also like to have a call once the beryllium sampling results are available from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

Following, Natalie asked the CLC for feedback on the company website and asked if the CLC is hearing anything in the community about BWXT NEC. Kathleen noted she would follow up with the CLC on the website review and see if they have any specific questions to add to the FAQ page on the website. The committee didn't have any new information to share and agreed that the second wave of COVID-19 has been a priority in the community. A CLC member mentioned



this is a good time for BWXT to be launching social media to reach the many folks that are at home during the pandemic. Another CLC member mentioned they have been hearing concerns about the GE parking lot and Natalie noted this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Dave Snopek then provided the CLC with some regulatory updates. He first noted that the Commission extended the CNSC staff beryllium re-sampling results deadline to October 30, 2020, due to COVID-19. He explained that BWXT NEC's current licence expires December 31st, 2020 and the decision on BWXT NEC's application is pending the CNSC staff beryllium results. Next, Dave provided an overview of BWXT NEC's recent beryllium sampling noting that CNSC Staff conducted soil sampling in July and that BWXT NEC sampled as well to ensure we had our own results. Dave noted that the objectives of BWXT NEC's sampling were as follows: to sample in the same locations as the CNSC including increased samples at Prince of Wales Public School; to use a qualified external laboratory for analysis; and, to use Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks accepted methodology for sampling, sample preparation, and analysis. Dave explained that our results were below or at the lab's ability to detect beryllium and that BWXT NEC published the report on September 15th. One CLC member commented on the recent criticism in a Peterborough Examiner editorial by Examiner Staff. Natalie informed the CLC that BWXT NEC chose not to wait to release results as we are a separate entity from the CNSC. We wanted to get our information to the public to take into consideration as soon as it was available to ensure transparency. One CLC member commented that BWXT NEC likely would have been criticized if they waited to release results at the same time as the CNSC. Another CLC member asked if BWXT will see the CNSC results in advance of the public. Dave responded noting that we don't know when the results will be available and that the CNSC does their sampling independently. Dave then showed CLC members information from the beryllium sampling report (which can be found on BWXT NEC's website at the following link: https://www.bwxt.com/bwxt-nec/environmentalmonitoring/environmental-reports). Dave walked through the laboratory results and explained that a subset of the samples were additionally sent to a second laboratory for analysis. The results at the second lab were consistent with those at the first lab. Dave also showed the CLC a chart highlighting the results versus the Canada average for beryllium in soil, and the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment's (CCME) guidelines for the protection of environmental health (4 mg/kg) and human health (75 mg/kg). A CLC member asked why BWXT NEC used a partial digestion method to sample for beryllium in soil compared to the CNSC total digestion method and whether CNSC will do both. Dave noted that when BWXT NEC contacted labs to conduct this sampling, all of the labs used partial digestion. He also noted that partial digestion is the Ministry of Environment (MOE) sampling method for detecting metals in soil. Dave also mentioned that we do not know what CNSC is doing with their sampling. A CLC member noted that partial digestion produces lower concentrations than total digestion method. Natalie mentioned that BWXT NEC might need to explain on its website the difference between total and partial digestion if the CNSC chooses to continue to use the total digestion method. A CLC member asked if there are credentials for the lab and Dave noted that all of the credentials, including how the lab prepared and analyzed the samples, are included in



the full report. He explained that there is a well-defined Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks (MECP) process for conducting soil sampling for metals. Jon Lundy posed the question to the CLC asking if BWXT NEC wasn't a nuclear company, who would do beryllium sampling. Dave confirmed it would be the MECP.

Next, Dave highlighted that the CNSC Regulatory Oversight Report public meeting where BWXT NEC will participate will be on December 8 via videoconference. This meeting is held to evaluate all licensees on the previous year's performance. Kathleen noted she would send the CLC details on the meeting when they are available.

Dave then provided the CLC with a summary of the recent emergency exercise at the facility. He began by noting that BWXT NEC conducted its CNSC-witnessed full-scale exercise on September 30th and involved coordination with and response by Peterborough Fire Services. He continued to note that the scenario was a fire in the fuel pellet storage area with smoke release. He showed some images of the exercise to the CLC and explained that the CNSC inspects our response. He continued to note that BWXT NEC has an internal drill team who manages the exercise with cue cards and props to simulate a real event. Those who actually respond to the event do not know what the scenario will be and respond as if it were real. Dave outlined the COVID-19 measures in place to ensure employees could effectively physically distance during the 90-minute exercise. Some of these implementations included painting physical markers on the ground and having COVID-19 representatives walking through the muster area reminding employees to distance and keep their mask on throughout the exercise. Dave noted the exercise went well and BWXT NEC received positive feedback from both Peterborough Fire Services and the CNSC. He also noted that COVID-19 issues did not overshadow BWXT NEC's emergency response. A CLC member asked if local media showed up to the exercise. Natalie responded noting that no media or members of the public were present during the event and that BWXT NEC was well prepared to handle these questions if they were out front of the entrance. Kathleen mentioned that the communications team prepares holding statements for the media and practices delivering these during the exercise and drills to simulate responding to real media. The CLC member then asked if BWXT NEC informed media about the drills and whether it would be a good idea for BWXT NEC to train media where to go during a real event. Natalie mentioned that BWXT NEC provided this information on the company website, in newsletters and social media and will take feedback to invite media into consideration for the future. She also noted that the purpose of the exercise is to ensure that BWXT NEC and first responders are prepared to respond to any emergency. Natalie then explained the ways in which BWXT NEC informed the community about the drills and exercise. She explained that the company used the following methods: banners on the fence-line on the drill/exercise dates. mailer sent to 5000 community members, added news on website (www.nec.bwxt.com), emails sent to stakeholders, posting information on social media, and including details in the community newsletter. She also highlighted that on drill and exercise dates, BWXT NEC had representatives at the front of the facility to answer public questions and updated the website slider and voicemail to inform the public a drill was in progress. Natalie continued to highlight



some questions that were submitted to BWXT NEC leading up to the drills/exercise and included BWXT NEC's response:

- Are there going to be alarms/loud sirens from facility? No sirens/alarms from the facility will occur, however first responders may use these in their response.
- Why are some of my neighbours not getting the mailer? If a community member has a
   "no-junk" sign on their mailbox, then they will not receive the mailer or newsletter. This is
   why BWXT NEC uses a multipronged approach to communicate information to the
   public.
- Why don't you provide drill dates to the public? Drill dates are subject to change due to
  weather, availability of first responders and interruption with internal constraints. We did
  communicate the final exercise date of September 30 once it was confirmed by CNSC.
- Are these drills a requirement of the licence renewal application? No, BWXT NEC conducts drills regularly to ensure effective response.
- How will deficiencies found be communicated to the public? BWXT NEC will communicate findings to the public once information is received by the CNSC.
- What is the role for the public/school in drills? There are no credible accident scenarios
  that require evacuation or sheltering in place off-site, so the public does not have any
  role to play in our drills.

Next, Natalie provided the CLC with an update on parking lot concerns, noting that BWXT NEC is a tenant on GE property and leases the 4 buildings the company occupies (B21, B24, B26 and B28). She also noted that BWXT NEC cannot speak for GE property or projects and that GE has provided BWXT NEC with contact number if the public has specific inquiries about GE property moving forward. One CLC member noted that GE needs to be a good corporate citizen and inform the public about changes as the parking lot upgrade was the gold standard for environmental parking practices and this was a good change.

Next, Kathleen Augustin provided updates on the Public Information Program (PIP) and asked for CLC feedback. Kathleen informed the CLC that BWXT NEC is launching its own dedicated social media channels in October. The company is creating its own Facebook and Twitter channels to better connect with the communities in Toronto and Peterborough. Additionally, the company will be holding Facebook Live events in October in lieu of the annual community barbeque. The Peterborough event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27 from 6-8 p.m. and will have a presentation with Q&A sections throughout. She noted that guests can submit questions in advance to <a href="mailto:questions@bwxt.com">questions@bwxt.com</a> or ask them via the chat during the event. Kathleen then advised the CLC that the Public Attitude Survey will begin soon and run from mid-October to mid-November. Details are included in the newsletter and will be posted on the public website, mailed to the community and posted on social media soon. Kathleen explained that the survey is conducted by Ipsos and that participants can go to the link provided to complete the websurvey. Additionally, Ipsos will conduct phone surveys to those who live nearby the facility and have a landline. Kathleen thanked CLC members for providing feedback to the survey and



noted that the survey results will be shared with CLC members in 2021. Next, Kathleen informed the CLC that the summer newsletter was recently mailed and contained key information about beryllium sampling, licence renewal, social media, public survey and Indigenous relations. She reminded the CLC that BWXT NEC is always open to feedback on the newsletters and would like the CLC to provide topics they feel would be of interest to the community. Kathleen also informed the CLC that the company is working on video tours for the public in Peterborough and Toronto. She explained that the Peterborough video will be completed first, as there is more space to film in that facility with physical distancing in mind. Natalie then provided the CLC with an update on recruitment for the dedicated staff member for Toronto. She noted there were many qualified applicants and that interviews will begin soon. Kathleen followed by noting that the suggested target audience list that the CLC provided at the first meeting was appreciated and that almost all contacted asked to be kept informed. She reminded the CLC to provide any feedback on audience as BWXT NEC is always looking to expanding its contact list.

Natalie then discussed news and media noting that BWXT NEC held an event recently with Ontario Power Generation and Laurentis Energy Partners at the Peterborough facility. She explained the event was held to highlight progress made on the Molybdenum-99 medical isotope project. In addition to Ontario Power Generation and Laurentis Energy Partners, MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha Dave Smith participated along with other special guests. Next Natalie noted that there have been many articles since July 2020 and explained the themes: emergency drills, picketing, beryllium soil sampling, and medical isotopes. She noted that there were a number of opinion pieces. Natalie also informed the CLC that the Citizens Against Radioactive Neighbourhoods (CARN) group in Peterborough has begun picketing again. This occurred leading up to and during licence renewal hearing and it looks as though they are conducting this every few weekends on the Saturday.

Natalie asked if anyone had any final questions. One CLC member asked who would be responsible for the dedicated social media accounts. Natalie responded noting that posts will be reviewed internally and the accounts will be run by the communications team. Another CLC member asked how large the CARN pickets are. Natalie noted that they range in size and estimated that some have anywhere from 5-15 people. Another CLC member asked for more information on medical isotopes and Natalie agreed this would be added to another meeting for more discussion.

The meeting terminated. Next meeting date to be scheduled in November.