



VIA EMAIL

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December 19, 2024

Chief Simpson
Alderville First Nation
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Roseneath, ON K0K 2X0

Chief Knott
Curve Lake First Nation
22 Winookeedaa St.
Curve Lake, ON K0L 1R0

Chief Carr
Hiawatha First Nation
431 Hiawatha Line
Hiawatha, ON K9J 0E6

Chief LaRocca
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
22521 Island Rd.
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B6

Re: Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) Hearing Process

Dear Chief Simpson, Chief Knott, Chief Carr and Chief LaRocca,

I am writing to follow up on the meetings between CNSC staff and Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg Nations of the Williams Treaties First Nations (WTFN) on November 18 and December 9, 2024, to discuss to the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) Licence to Construct (LTC) Commission hearing process as well as your perspectives on Commission hearings more broadly.

The Commission Registry continues to listen to learn how we can make Commission proceedings more welcoming, meaningfully inclusive, and culturally appropriate. As we move beyond the January hearing for the DNNP project, we hope to have more conversations about how the hearing process can be improved and better designed to reflect those conversations.

Please find below some of the specific points raised in both the letters we have received and in our recent meetings, to which we are providing information regarding how the feedback we have heard has been incorporated into the preparations for the DNNP hearing:

1) A 3-part Hearing for the DNNP

The Registry understands that your Nations expressed interest in a 3-part hearing. Based on your feedback we have ensured that there is a dedicated time for your Nations on the first day of part 2 of the Commission hearing (January 8, 2025).

2) Inclusion of Anishinaabe cultural practices and legal traditions in CNSC proceedings

You shared your views on ways the Commission’s hearing process might better include and reflect your Nations’ cultural practices and traditions. We have heard the feedback and have worked to incorporate your voices into the plans for the DNNP hearing. The current plans are described below, and take into consideration the discussions that took place at the November and December meetings:

Suggested cultural practice for inclusion	Plan for DNNP
Exchange of tobacco	<p>As in previous proceedings, this will be included in this hearing. The Registry plans to have the President offer tobacco to the Elders following the opening remarks and ceremony.</p> <p>The Registry also acknowledges that a tobacco offering will be part of Chief Knott’s opening remarks.</p>
Opening remarks	<p>During the December 9, 2024, meeting, it was noted that opening remarks may be made by a Chief or Elder, prior to the start of the hearing.</p> <p>The Registry has allotted 15 minutes at the beginning of the hearing on January 8, 2025, for this important item, per the amount of time requested. Please note that the current plan is that, as this is part of the Hearing Record, it will be transcribed and webcast. Please let us know if there are concerns with this approach and we can discuss potential options.</p>

Suggested cultural practice for inclusion	Plan for DNNP
<p>Smudging ceremony</p>	<p>During the December 9, 2024, meeting, it was noted that there was interest in performing a smudging ceremony. The Registry committed to looking into the logistics for this event at the Ajax Convention Centre.</p> <p>The Registry has confirmed that this practice would need to be done outdoors. We would like to include this practice but recognize that additional logistical considerations need to be arranged in terms of the location and timing of the smudging ceremony.</p> <p>The Registry will make arrangements for a smudging ceremony to take place outside of the hearing venue at 1:00 pm on January 8, 2025, prior to the presentations by your Nations. As this will be located outside the hearing room, it will not be transcribed or webcast.</p>
<p>Reconfiguration of physical hearing room (Traditional Circle, all on the same level)</p>	<p>The Registry confirms that the tables for the Commission tribunal and speakers will be set up in a connected square configuration, all on the same level.</p> <p>The Registry has confirmed that there are no security impediments to the suggested layout. For a transparent public hearing, the portion of the hearing with your Nations will not be closed to the public.</p> <p>It should be noted that the size of the tables and number of presenters who may be seated at each will be limited. Additional tables for support staff will be available.</p>
<p>Use of Eagle Feather (to be brought by HFN; CNSC could be custodian of feather for future hearings)</p>	<p>The Registry would like to further discuss this practice, to potentially include it in future proceedings. This practice is not built into the schedule for this hearing as the Registry hasn't yet confirmed details of how to respectfully include it and would like to have further discussions with your Nations on how best to do that for future proceedings, where appropriate.</p>

Suggested cultural practice for inclusion	Plan for DNNP
<p>Adequate speaking time for Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg Chiefs</p>	<p>The Registry has scheduled your Nations to present in the afternoon of January 8, 2025. The Registry understands that each Nation is intending to speak for approximately 20 minutes, and that there should be additional time for pre-recorded opening remarks by Chief Knott.</p> <p>The schedule for January 8 will include time for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Knott’s opening remarks – 15 minutes • Presentations – 80 minutes total • Closing remarks by AFN, HFN and MSIFN Chiefs – 5 minutes per Nation • Question and answer period – 2 hours • Final remarks by each Chief and/or closing ceremony – 20 minutes

3) Additional points raised during November 18, 2024, and December 9, 2024 meetings

Topic	Plan for DNNP
<p>Providing a welcoming space (tables, wi-fi, charging stations)</p> <p>On December 9, 2024, Chief LaRocca emphasized the importance of having a welcoming space for the Nations in attendance.</p>	<p>The Registry has arranged for a dedicated space in the hearing room with tables and charging outlets for your Nations.</p> <p>The Registry understands that CNSC staff from the Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division (ICED) are working with representatives for your Nations regarding options for a dedicated meeting space for your Nations and support teams during the first day of the hearing.</p>
<p>Available refreshments (coffee, snacks)</p> <p>On December 9, 2024, it was noted that ideally snacks and coffee would be available for Nations.</p>	<p>The Registry cannot provide refreshments for its public proceedings. However, the Registry understands that CNSC staff from ICED are working with representatives from your Nations regarding options for hospitality during the first day of the hearing.</p>

Topic	Plan for DNNP
The importance of feeling heard and wanting the Commission to ask questions of Nations directly.	The Registry appreciates this perspective and has scheduled up to 2 hours for questions and answers on January 8, 2025, to provide ample time for discussion.
<p>Final remarks or closing ceremony at end of January 8, 2025.</p> <p>On December 9, 2024, it was noted that, in addition to an opening ceremony, it would be appropriate to have a closing ceremony or final remarks following the intervention by your Nations.</p>	The Registry has scheduled 20 minutes at the end of January 8, 2025, for final remarks by each Chief or a closing ceremony. The Registry awaits further communication from your Nations as to what that closing will include.
Oral closing remarks on January 14, 2025.	<p>On December 9, 2024, building on the request for final remarks or a closing ceremony on January 8, 2025, the Registry asked whether your Nations would like to make oral closing remarks on January 14, 2025, when the Commission hearing comes to a close. The Registry understands that your Nations are working to confirm whether Chief Knott or other representatives will attend on January 14, 2025, to close the hearing.</p> <p>The Registry will make time in the schedule on January 14, 2025, for oral closing remarks, if desired. This can be accommodated with 24-hour notice if in person, and 48-hours notice if by video.</p>

Please note that on January 8, 2025, the current draft agenda has the day beginning at 9:00 am and finishing at 6:00 pm.

As previously mentioned, we hope that the above changes support making Commission proceedings more welcoming, meaningfully inclusive, and culturally appropriate, and that you see your feedback built into this planning. As noted, this is the beginning of a process of improvement, and we look forward to continuing that improvement following the DNNP hearing.

Thank you again for your letters, for meeting with us, and for sharing your perspectives and thoughts on the upcoming DNNP public Commission hearing. I sincerely apologize that I was not able to meet with you on December 9, 2024. I continue to look forward to speaking with you further and welcome your contributions and feedback.

Sincerely,



Candace Salmon

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