



Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission (CNSC) Meeting held on  
February 13, 2026

Minutes of the virtual Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) meeting held on Friday February 13, 2026, beginning at 9:00 am (CT) / 10:00 am (ET). The meeting was webcast live via the CNSC website, and video archives are available on the [CNSC website](#).

Present:

P. Tremblay, President  
T. Berube  
A. Hardie  
J. Hopwood  
M. Lacroix  
V. Remenda

C. Salmon, Commission Registrar  
C. Maheux, Commission Counsel  
H. Forester, Recording Secretary

CNSC staff advisors: A. Viktorov, R. Jammal, S. Eaton, D. Hipson, T. Gulinski, M. Fabian Mendoza, W. Chung, B. Rzentkowski, M. Hornof, R. Tennant

Other contributors:

1. Industry:

- Ontario Power Generation: S. Irvine, S. Sharma, S. Preston, B. Witruk, B. Jackowski, J. Stevenson
- Bruce Power: M. Burton
- New Brunswick Power: N. Reicker, J. Maciejko

2. Canada Water Agency: S. Clement

### **Constitution**

3. With the Notice of Meeting, Commission Member Document (CMD) [26-M20](#), being properly given and a quorum of Commission Members present,<sup>1</sup> the meeting was properly constituted.
4. For the meeting, [CMD 26-M22 to CMD 26-M24.1](#) were distributed to Commission Members. These documents are further detailed in [Appendix A](#).

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

5. The revised agenda, [CMD 26-M21.A](#), was adopted as presented.

### **Chair and Registrar**

6. President Tremblay chaired the meeting of the Commission, assisted by C. Salmon, Commission Registrar.

### **Minutes of Previous Commission Meeting**

7. The [minutes](#) of the Commission meeting held on December 12, 2025, were approved secretarially in advance of this meeting.

### **Participant Funding Program**

8. There was no participant funding allocated for this meeting.

### **Status Report on Power Reactors**

9. With reference to [CMD 26-M22](#), [CMD 26-M22.A](#) and [CMD 26-M22.B](#), which included the status of the power reactor facilities as of January 12, 2026, CNSC staff presented the following additional updates:
  - For the [Bruce Nuclear Generating Station \(NGS\) B](#):
    - on January 17, 2026, Bruce Power shut down Unit 8 for a planned maintenance outage
  - For the [Darlington NGS](#):

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Member A. McEwan, who was appointed on February 3, 2026, did not participate in the meeting.

- on January 19, 2026, RHP-2<sup>2</sup> was removed for Darlington NGS Unit 4's refurbishment, and the unit moved through low-power testing, heat-up and conditioning
  - on February 12, 2026, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) submitted a request to the CNSC for the removal of RHP-3, which would allow Unit 4 to return to full power; CNSC staff was reviewing OPG's request
  - CNSC staff was seeking clarification from OPG regarding its response ([CMD 26-M24.1](#)) to the request issued on [November 6, 2025](#)
  - For the [Pickering NGS](#):
    - on February 2, 2026, OPG shut down Unit 7 for maintenance to repair a fuel channel seal; OPG was expecting to return the unit to service on February 21, 2026
  - For [Darlington New Nuclear Project \(DNNP\)](#):
    - 4 additional RHP-1 commitments have been closed
10. Asked to provide any further updates, the Bruce Power representative reported that the major component replacement for the Bruce A NGS's Unit 3 had moved to the guaranteed shutdown state in preparation for fuelling. The Bruce Power representative noted that Bruce Power was awaiting CNSC authorization for the removal of the RHP to begin fuelling.

### *Discussion*

11. The Commission asked questions on the following topics:
- progress updates for the DNNP, including additional details to better understand the images provided in CMD 26-M22.B
  - Pickering NGS's Unit 7 seal leak
  - operating challenges due to cold weather, particularly noting the fish impingement event from February 2025, at the Bruce NGS A<sup>3</sup>
12. OPG representatives provided the following responses to the Commission's questions:
- regarding the DNNP, OPG is planning to launch the tunnel boring machine in June 2026, and there are no anticipated impacts from blasting or digging on the Darlington NGS; OPG

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<sup>2</sup> Regulatory Hold Point (RHP)

<sup>3</sup> *Minutes of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Meeting held on February 25 and 26, 2025.*  
CNSC, February 25 and 26, 2025.

continues to work towards removal of RHP-1 with completion targeted for March 2026

- regarding the Pickering NGS Unit 7 seal leak, the leak was identified in September 2025 and monitored to ensure that the leak rate was below shutdown limits; OPG planned the shutdown to address the leak before an unplanned shutdown was required
13. Bruce Power representatives provided the following responses to the Commission's questions:
- Bruce Power was working with Indigenous Nations and communities and government agencies to determine the population of gizzard shad in Lake Huron, including using drones and remote vehicles
  - Bruce Power was deploying temporary fish impingement measures, including seasonal nets, acoustics and lights, until a long-term plan is developed
14. Representatives from OPG, Bruce Power and New Brunswick Power all reported no operational challenges from cold weather.
15. CNSC staff provided the following responses to the Commission's questions:
- the impact of DNNP construction on the Darlington NGS was assessed as part of OPG's licence application for the DNNP, and there are measures in place to minimize any impacts to the environment or existing structures
  - CNSC staff were reviewing OPG's RHP-1 submissions and intend to provide a detailed report to the Commission in March 2026
  - CNSC staff monitor fish impingement measures, and have asked Bruce Power to review its Environmental Risk Assessment and continue to collaborate with Indigenous Nations and communities

## **UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS**

### Update from CNSC staff on decision on radionuclides as chemicals of mutual concern ([CMD 26-M23](#))

16. In its *Record of Decision*, [DEC 18-H6](#),<sup>4</sup> the Commission directed CNSC staff and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to provide updates on the nomination of radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA).<sup>5</sup> The Commission requested updates on ECCC's decision to add radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> annual update provided to the Commission on this matter.

#### *Discussion*

17. The Commission asked questions on the screening criteria used to evaluate the nomination, and on the monitoring of radionuclides in the Great Lakes. A representative from the Canada Water Agency (CWA) explained that the CWA uses an evidence-based approach to evaluate nominations against screening criteria including toxicity, bioaccumulation, releases, water quality levels, exposure routes, scale and management. CNSC staff reported that it collaborates with government agencies and releases research and data related to the Great Lakes to the public.
18. The Commission was satisfied with the update on this item. The Commission notes that CNSC staff proposed that the next update be presented to the Commission following a decision from the CWA and the US Environmental Protection Agency on the nomination. The Commission accepts CNSC staff's proposal and looks forward to the next update.

### Update on Darlington NGS – OPG Response to CNSC request pursuant to Subsection 12(2) of the General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations: Darlington Emergency Exercise “Unified Command 2025” ([CMD 26-M24.1](#))

19. On [November 6, 2025](#), CNSC staff issued a request to OPG under subsection 12(2) of the [General Nuclear Safety and Control](#)

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<sup>4</sup> *Record of Decision in the Matter of Ontario Power Generation's Application to Renew the Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licence for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station*. CNSC, December 20, 2018, para. 414.

<sup>5</sup> The GLWQA is an agreement between Canada and the US, signed in 1972 and amended in 2012 to include Annex 3: Chemicals of Mutual Concern. The purpose is to identify Chemicals of Mutual Concern from anthropogenic sources that both countries agree to being harmful to human health and the environment.

[Regulations](#),<sup>6</sup> following deficiencies noted during the 2025 Darlington Emergency Exercise “Unified Command 2025”.<sup>7</sup> CNSC staff made 4 requests to OPG and CMD 26-M24.1 is OPG’s response to the CNSC on this matter. This matter was previously discussed at the [December 12, 2025](#), Commission Meeting, as part of the status report on power reactors ([CMD 25-M38](#)).

20. The Commission asked questions on the completion timelines for the regulatory requests, the date of the next integrated exercise, and OPG’s ongoing investigation and follow-up actions.
21. OPG representatives provided the following responses to the Commission:
  - OPG was reviewing CNSC staff’s feedback from its response and will address follow-up actions
  - OPG has completed a root cause analysis and implemented immediate and long-term corrective actions, including adding non-evaluated training and practice on EME
  - OPG plans to complete further drills in 2026, and corrective actions are expected to be complete by September 2026
  - emergency mitigating equipment (EME) is to be deployed during beyond-design-basis events, and several defence-in-depth barriers would have to fail before needing to use EME
22. CNSC staff reported that it was reviewing OPG’s response to the request and confirmed the next integrated exercise is scheduled for 2028.
23. The Commission emphasised the seriousness of this matter. The Commission expects OPG to take concrete actions to correct the deficiencies.

#### Closure of the Public Meeting

24. The public meeting closed at 10:23 am (CT) / 11:23 am (ET) on February 13, 2026. These minutes reflect both the public meeting and the Commission’s considerations following the meeting.

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<sup>6</sup> SOR/2000-202

<sup>7</sup> CNSC staff identified deficiencies during a CNSC Type II inspection of the OPG emergency exercise “Unified Command 2025”: failure to demonstrate that emergency mitigating equipment (EME) can be successfully deployed, inadequate maintenance of equipment essential to emergency response, lack of staff proficiency in deployment and operation of EME, and failure to validate the adequacy of the Phase 2 EME deployment guide.

February 13, 2026

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**Forester,  
Henry**

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Recording Secretary

February 27, 2026

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Date

**Salmon,  
Candace**

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Commission Registrar

February 27, 2026

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Date

## APPENDIX A

CMD	Date	Document ID No.
26-M20	2026-01-09	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-9341
Notice of Meeting of the Commission on February 13, 2026		
26-M21	2026-01-22	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-9849
Agenda of the Meeting of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to be held on February 13, 2026		
26-M22	2026-01-27	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-10021
Status Report on Power Reactors  Written submission from CNSC staff		
26-M22.A	2026-02-02	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-10180
Status Report on Power Reactors  CNSC staff update to the Commission on Elevated Heq R&D activities  Supplementary submission from CNSC staff		
26-M22.B	2026-02-13	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-10248
Status Report on Power Reactors  Progress of Construction Activities at the Darlington New Nuclear Project Site  Supplementary submission from CNSC staff		
26-M23	2026-01-07	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-9335
Update on an item from a previous Commission proceeding  Update on Decision on Radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern  Written submission from CNSC staff		
26-M24.1	2025-12-19	QQQVZZNDK725-166150894-9730
Update on an item from a previous Commission proceeding  Response to CNSC request pursuant to Subsection 12(2) of the <i>General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations</i> : Darlington Emergency Exercise “Unified Command 2025”  Submission from Ontario Power Generation		