



CANHC

Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities

Press Release

October 23, 2023

CANHC to partner with Canada's Independent Nuclear Regulator

Clarington, Ontario – The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) have signed a new arrangement for engagement and collaboration. This unprecedented partnership will help build trust and foster cooperation between the nuclear regulator and current and future nuclear host communities.

“This partnership will ensure that relevant and meaningful information reaches the public in communities near nuclear facilities. There is no nuclear industry without willing host communities. As crucial partners in transitioning to a low-carbon future, local communities need meaningful engagement, capacity and support from the nuclear regulator, governments, and the nuclear industry,” said CANHC Chair Adrian Foster, Mayor of Clarington.

CANHC is a not-for-profit association that supports current, future, and interested nuclear host communities, champions their best interests and fosters an ongoing proactive relationship with the Canadian nuclear regulator. As Canada's independent nuclear regulator, the CNSC disseminates objective scientific, technical, and regulatory information to the public and can support CANHC in building capacity and knowledge on nuclear matters.

“We're pleased to be collaborating with the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities to help in partnering and supporting capacity building with communities located near existing or proposed nuclear facilities. This important work will help to ensure we are providing relevant and meaningful information to the public,” said Clare Cattrysse, Director, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Foster and Cattrysse signed the terms of reference on October 19, 2023, at the International Atomic Energy Agency conference in Vienna, Austria.

“Local municipalities have a central role to play in enabling the supply of safe and reliable nuclear energy. This partnership acknowledges that role and the accompanying need to fully engage communities that host nuclear facilities,” said Foster.

Background:

- The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) represents communities with a common interest as a host (or host-to-be) of nuclear technology. Our vision is to support nuclear host communities with a robust and independent network of resources and knowledge to enable them to fully participate in the energy, technological and economic benefits of nuclear power.
- The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has two funding programs to assist stakeholders in preparing for and participating in environmental and licensing reviews and offering capacity funding to stakeholders in support of collaborative activities and capacity building with the CNSC. CANHC has taken advantage of these funding programs on behalf of our host municipalities to support the review of preparing topic-specific submissions to the Commission and, just recently, to support CANHC in the growing capacity to implement their new collaboration arrangement with CNSC.
- Membership in the Association is available to upper and lower-tier municipalities, which are hosts to an existing or future-approved nuclear facility, including research, radioactive waste management, and energy-producing facilities. CANHC includes Associate Memberships for communities who are either in the process of, or interested in, hosting a nuclear or related facility.
- As nuclear technology within Canada looks to expand (e.g., small modular reactors) and the work continues to explore potential host communities for a used nuclear fuel repository, the potential for many new communities to become hosts emerges. CANHC is working to expand its membership to support even more nuclear host communities.
- CANHC strives to share best practices among host communities, to demonstrate through safe and positive community partnership the benefits of nuclear energy through all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, to play a key role in supporting the advancement of Canada’s nuclear technology, and to be a central public voice and the main community authority when it comes to nuclear safety, security and public opinion. For more information, please visit www.canhc.ca.

Media inquiries:
Jennifer O'Meara
Policy and Communications Advisor
905-260-2844 or jomeara@clarington.net