

March 3, 2025

## Executive Director's Message

SIMSA will be hosting a supplier event with GE Hitachi on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon. There is currently a "save the date" notice on our website, which will be converted to a "register now" version in the near future.

Be sure to complete your profile on the Mining Forum app for this year's event!

And, in what will be an extremely valuable marketing-knowledge event, on June 17<sup>th</sup> SIMSA will be presenting an event with the global leaders in visual storytelling – [Visual Capitalists](#). They are coming to Saskatoon to reveal everything they know about data storytelling. They will answer, "How does Visual Capitalist make such compelling visualizations?"

As part of the launch of their book "The Art of Data" – Jeff Desjardins the Founder and editor-in-Chief of Visual Capitalist will speak about how and why they do things.



For 13+ years, we've been perfecting our craft.

- **4,500+**  
Data visualizations produced
- **12 million+**  
Monthly site visits
- **385,000+**  
Daily email subscribers
- **1.7 million+**  
Social media followers

During the one-hour presentation, Jeff will cover:

- What makes good data storytelling special
- Where we agree with the "experts", but also where we disagree
- The Visual Capitalist philosophy and decision-making process
- All of the practical tricks we've learned over the years
- Examples of our best-performing visualizations, and what made them successful

The event will feature a short networking session, lunch, and then the presentation. Tickets on sale soon.

We will be launching our "Call for Nominations" for SIMSA's Board on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. At our 2025 AGM May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be confirming up to 6 freshly-elected Board members from the "Regular" membership category. The exact number of "freshly elected" as this number includes incumbents.

Per SIMSA's [Bylaws](#), to be eligible for the SIMSA Board of Directors, the candidate must be:

1. a Saskatchewan resident and (SIMSA may ask for proof of this)
2. a direct employee with significant operational decision authority,
3. of a company which is a Regular or Open Member of SIMSA [this year all Regular]
4. and their membership is paid current.

The tentative election timelines are as follows:

1. March 7, 8:00 am - Call for nominations begins (via email) (you can nominate yourself)
2. March 21, 9:00 am - Nominations cease
3. April 1, 8:00 am - Notice of AGM with ballot sent (with nominees' bios)
4. May 9, 9:00 am - Completed ballot submission ends
5. Wednesday, May 14, at noon – AGM

SIMSA's first Board meeting after the AGM will be June 18, in SIMSA's office, in Saskatoon.

Finally, SIMSA is hiring a Nuclear Specialist to replace Tom Kischuk as his term ends. SIMSA is very grateful to Tom for the skill, dedication, and knowledge he contributed during his term.

If you know of anyone suitable for this role, or want to know more about it, go [HERE](#).

# Member's News

[Unlocking Lithium: How SRC is Pairing Technology and Expertise to Increase Project Value](#)

[Team Power Solutions and Westinghouse Sign Agreement for AP1000® and AP300™ Projects](#)

## Advocacy

Our continued meetings with the Government of Canada continued in February with meetings with the Prime Minister's office, various MPs, calls with Deputy Ministers, and the like. SIMSA is now preparing a "policies to be revised" document for the various Federal persons.



Andrew Scheer



Corey Tochor



Kelly Block





Randy Hoback

At PDAC, SIMSA will be meeting with the UK and Kazakhstan governments, BHP, and others.

# Nuclear

## **Ontario Power Generation – Darlington New Nuclear Project**

The first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) deployment in Canada is currently underway at the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) site. The DNNP is located on the site of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station in the Municipality of Clarington, ON, on the traditional lands and waters of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg, the Gunshot Treaty (1877–88), the Williams Treaties (1923), and the Williams Treaties Settlement Agreement (2018).

Basic project data is as follows:

Location: Clarington, ON

Operator: OPG

Planned Configuration: up to 4 x 300 MW Boling Water Reactors (GEH BWRX-300)

Planned Commercial Operation Date (COD): as early as 2029 for first unit

Reactor Supplier: GE Hitachi

Turbine and Generator Supplier: TBA

## Licensing Process

OPG has applied for a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) license to construct one unit at the Darlington New Nuclear Project (DNNP) site. The CNSC notice of public hearing was posted on June 27, 2024 and can be found here:

[Notice of Public Hearing - OPG - Application for a licence to construct one BWRX-300 reactor for its Darlington New Nuclear Project](#)

## Key Dates in Licensing Process

- 2021 (October) - CNSC power reactor site preparation licence for the DNNP renewed
- 2021 (December) – OPG announcement of its selection of the GE Hitachi BWRX-300 reactor for deployment at the DNNP site
- 2022 (October) – OPG application for CNSC license to construct on BWRX-300 reactor. Application document can be found here: <https://www.opg.com/documents/dnnp-application-for-a-licence-to-construct-a-reactor-facility-pdf/>
- 2024 (April) – CNSC announced that the existing environmental assessment for DNNP, which covers the full project lifecycle, is applicable to the BWRX-300 reactor
- 2024 (October) – Public Hearing Part 1 (virtual)
- 2025 (January) – Public Hearing Part 2 (hybrid – in person and virtual)

## Early site construction work

An overview of early site construction work at DNNP can be found here:

[News article | OPG's Darlington New Nuclear Project completes early site preparation work – OPG](#)

## Engagement

A summary of engagement activities for DNNP can be found here: [Small modular reactors | Darlington SMR – OPG](#)

## Additional Information

More information about the Darlington New Nuclear Project can be found here: [Small modular reactors | Darlington SMR – OPG](#)

# Member Services

## **SIMSA, Deputy Minister of Education, and Partners Meet to Further STEM and Trade education**

In late November SIMSA began a sweeping initiative to reinvigorate Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) and trade education in Saskatchewan's school systems – the “Education Ecosystem Enhancement” or E3. The initiative began with a survey of educators, primarily working in K-12 - the results revealed that the largest barriers to their growth and mandate, a larger group then met to discuss solutions and next steps.



The second event on February 11<sup>th</sup>, featured a very brief review of previous event, a fantastic primer from the Deputy Minister of Education, then spent the remainder of the time ideating an Education Hub, where resources could be shared and initiatives could be amplified. SIMSA invited a cross section of people, but not too large of a group, so a conversation could occur. The group included representatives from:

- Educators
- Industrialists – mining companies, Crowns, etc.
- Non-profits
- Government
- Funding agencies
- Other

## Summary of February 11<sup>th</sup> Education Hub Workshop

**Purpose and Roles of the Hub:** The Education Hub will aim to promote STEM and trade education through the connection industry and education by providing resources, coordinating curriculum resource development, and supporting career exploration for K-12 students. The Hub will not serve as a funding body but may facilitate funding opportunities. It will operate independently to maintain trust among educators and have a province-wide scope (macro, not micro).

**Governance Structure:** A multi-stakeholder represented governance model, with province-wide representation.

### Key Takeaways

- The Hub must be structured and goal-oriented, avoiding an unmanageable or unfocused expansion.
- Industry must play a supportive role, ensuring alignment with workforce needs while maintaining educator and parent trust.
- Sustained funding and governance clarity are essential for long-term success.
- Must not infringe, but instead support/amplify, current resource providers and educators in this space.

## Sector News

Here is a key news item on tariffs – one that matters most:

### **Nutrien piling potash into the U.S. ahead of tariffs, but says they won't hurt bottom line if enacted**

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/money/topstories/nutrien-piling-potash-into-the-u-s-ahead-of-tariffs-but-says-they-won-t-hurt-bottom-line-if-enacted/>

Canada's largest [potash miner](#) has been moving as much of its product as possible into the United States to get ahead of potential tariffs as farmers prepare for spring seeding, but [Nutrien Ltd.](#) chief executive Ken Seitz says the company will not be the one feeling the worst impacts [if tariffs do come to pass](#) .

“We ourselves (Nutrien) supply about 40 per cent of that market and, of course, [Canada supplies](#) well over 80 per cent of the U.S. farmers’ potash needs,” he said during a fireside chat at the BMO Global



Metals, Mining & Critical Minerals Conference in Florida on Tuesday. “The cost of tariffs will be passed onto the U.S. farmer; that’s our view,” he said.

Seitz’s comments come after U.S. President Donald Trump pledged to put 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian exports to the U.S. The levies are expected to take effect March 4 after he paused them earlier this month.

Seitz said the most exposed part of Nutrien’s business would be its potash operations since the American market generally consumes 10 to 11 million tonnes of potash per year, with much of that coming from north of the border.

Potash is crucial in maintaining soil fertility and crop yields and Canada supplies 85 per cent of the U.S. needs, according to a recent [report](#) by Royal Bank of Canada. That total could go higher if the U.S. pulls back from Russia and Belarus, which are its only other major suppliers.

Seitz also expressed optimism about the future, with Nutrien projecting market demand to be between 71 and 75 million tonnes this year, mainly driven by the positive outlook in Brazil and Southeast Asia. In 2024, consumption was around 72.5 million tonnes.

“The demand side of the equation continues to be quite strong and that’s encouraging,” he said.

Seitz also said some overseas producers in Laos are dealing with operational challenges that could impact their production, while producers in Russia and Belarus have announced their operations will have to go offline to undergo maintenance.

“Put that all together, and that’s led to this tightening in the market and to the price increases,” he said.

On the retail side of Nutrien, Seitz credited the company’s strong earnings to its cost-cutting efforts that involved workforce reductions as well as shuttering some locations.

One market observer shares Seitz’s optimism on the potash front.

“With significant underutilized potash capacity, Nutrien is well-positioned to benefit from favourable long-term demand for potash,” Hamir Patel, an analyst at CIBC Capital Markets, said in a note on Tuesday.

# New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of February were:

- [Shaft and Tunnel Consulting Services Ltd.](#)
- [Potzus Paving & Road Maintenance Ltd.](#)
- [Cratex Industries](#)
- [Forsite Consultants Ltd. \(A Barr Geospatial Company\)](#)
- [Avenir Energy](#)
- [Aquifer Distribution Ltd.](#)
- [SoilRocks Consulting Inc.](#)
- [Defend Environmental Ltd.](#)
- [Reftech International](#)
- [Pace Solutions Corp.](#)

# Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **Lunch and Learn: Hire the next generation through the Saskatchewan Youth Internship Program – March 13, 2025**  
At this virtual event, learn about this program that provides youth with summer employment and a look at specific careers at the same time.
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 9 & 10, 2025**  
Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 9 and 10, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Tradeshow now sold out!

- GE Hitachi Supplier Symposium – May 8, 2025**  
 Save the date! SIMSA will be co-hosting an event with the [Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence](#) (COE). At this all-day event, supply chain and technical issues will be the focus, with numerous GE Hitachi and SaskPower persons in attendance.
- SIMSA AGM – May 14, 2025**  
 Save the date! Our 2025 AGM will be on May 14, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Keynote speaker will be David Doerksen, Chief Marketing Officer at Cameco.
- Lunch and Learn: Disability Management with Equitable – May 21, 2025**  
 Save the date! At this virtual event, learn from the Equitable - the underwriter on SIMSA's member benefits plan, Protecture - on comprehensive disability management.
- Visual Capitalist Event - “The Art of Data” – June 17, 2025**  
 Save the date! At this extremely valuable marketing-knowledge event, learn from global leaders in visual storytelling as they reveal everything they know about data storytelling.
- Saskatchewan Supplier Energy Forum (SSEF) – October 8, 2025**  
 Save the date! The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) will be on October 8, 2025 at Delta Hotel in downtown Regina.

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