

# OPG's DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY PROJECT

For Low & Intermediate Level Waste

Keeping You Informed

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## UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OPG'S L&ILW DGR PROJECT AND NWMO'S APM PROJECT

### NWMO is under contract to OPG to seek regulatory approval for the L&ILW DGR

**Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) are two different companies with complimentary roles in the development of the proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW) at the Bruce nuclear site.

OPG is proposing, with the support of the Bruce municipalities, to construct the L&ILW DGR. OPG will be the owner, licence holder and operator of the L&ILW DGR. OPG is also financing the project from segregated funds controlled under the Ontario Nuclear Funds Agreement (ONFA) for the long-term management of nuclear waste.

NWMO is an independent, not-for-profit Canadian company established by the nuclear utilities, under the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act in 2002, with specialized expertise in the long-term management of nuclear waste. NWMO, in a completely different and separate role, is also responsible for implementing a long-term management approach for all of Canada's used

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NWMO's Kevin Orr poses in front of the L&ILW DGR mobile exhibit, which was recently on display at five local home shows within the Bruce area. NWMO delivers the L&ILW DGR engagement program on behalf of OPG.

# PARTNERSHIP WITH HISTORIC SAUGEEN MÉTIS FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF L&ILW DGR

## NWMO provides support for storefront office



Information about OPG's L&ILW DGR is available at the storefront office

**The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)** recently provided the Historic Saugeen Métis (HSM) with some additional office equipment and furnishings for their storefront office at 204 High Street in Southampton.

Patsy L. McArthur, HSM Secretary-Treasurer, who has spent years researching the HSM, said the meeting place, which opened in February 2009, is helping to heighten the profile of the HSM both within the local community and with visitors, while ensuring them a place to conduct their business.

"People come in and want to know about us, our history... they are fascinated by our story," she said.

NWMO's contribution to the storefront is a reflection of the company's commitment to developing long-term relationships with Aboriginal groups as well as ensuring local groups are able to participate in the regulatory process for Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW).

Patsy noted that HSM citizens, as part of their right to be consulted with respect to development that could impact their traditional way of life, are currently commenting on several projects. The storefront office provides them with a much needed resource for conducting this business, which for years was done in members' dining rooms.

They can also use the facility as an information centre from which to disperse knowledge about their heritage and legacy, as well as knowledge about the projects they are reviewing.

For instance, one can find information about OPG's proposed L&ILW DGR on the book shelves. An Open House about the proposed long-term management facility was also held in the storefront office in March to encourage citizens from the HSM to become informed about the L&ILW DGR. A new flat screen, wall-mounted TV can be utilized for presentations and videos including the new L&ILW DGR video.

Patsy said the HSM's relationship with NWMO and other groups is based on respect and co-operation.

"They have shown such respect for our need to be involved in these projects from our perspective as stewards of the land," she said. "We really appreciate these partnerships."

Anyone who would like to learn more about the HSM is invited to visit the office in Southampton, which is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Patsy McArthur (left) and Tammy Schummelketel, secretary-treasurer and office coordinator respectively for the Historic Saugeen Métis, encourage members of the community and visitors to stop by the storefront office in Southampton.

# NWMO AWARD OF MERIT RECOGNIZES HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR YOUNG WOMEN

## Program emphasizes self esteem, goal-setting, planning a positive future

**Amy Snobelen and Kathie Hackney**, two Kincardine District Secondary School (KDSS) teachers, are this year's recipients of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Award of Merit. The award – one of eleven community achievement awards presented annually by the Kincardine and District Chamber of Commerce – recognizes a business, group or individual who makes an outstanding contribution to the community. The teachers were nominated for the NWMO Award of Merit by the Kincardine Economic Development Committee in recognition of a new program at KDSS, which is already yielding positive results.

Recognizing the need to provide alternative resources for teenage girls who were experiencing limited success in high school because of poor attendance and low academic achievement, Amy and Kathie developed, secured funding and implemented a new initiative designed specifically for these young women who weren't responding to mainstream programming.

Students spend two periods a day in a special classroom setting where the emphasis is on positive reinforcement by encouraging and developing self esteem, teamwork and goal setting. If the girls are behind in their courses, they are in an environment where they can get caught up without feeling stigmatized by being in a classroom with younger students. Special speakers from various vocations are brought



Congratulations to: Front, KDSS teachers Amy Snobelen (left) and Kathie Hackney (right) with students (back left) Katie Creighton, Kate-Lyn Fry, Vicky Marsh and Lisa Graham.

in as a means to inspire the girls to set realistic career goals. Although the program is only in its infancy, the attendance rate of the first 16 students has improved and according to Snobelen, "sixty per cent of the participants are on track to graduate."

Several of the students said the program provided them with the incentive to attend class because they enjoyed the support they received from their classmates and the overall sense of belonging. One girl noted that she had thought about leaving school, but being in the program gave her the confidence to seek a CO-OP position in a local restaurant, and now she is on track for

graduation, and thinking about various career options. Of the four girls who were interviewed for this story, all had positive experiences with the program and said they fully expect to graduate from high school.

As for Snobelen and Hackney, they are very appreciative of the award, and wanted to express their thanks to the Kincardine and District Chamber of Commerce, NWMO and the various community partners who helped them through donations and funding to get the program started; however as Snobelen said, "it's nice to get the recognition, but Kathie and I feel we are just doing our jobs."

## OPG's L&ILW DGR

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nuclear fuel called Adaptive Phased Management (APM). This will involve the construction of a deep geologic repository in an informed and willing host community in a location in Canada yet to be determined.

The NWMO, as contractor and technical expert to OPG, is managing the Environmental Assessment process under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act for the L&ILW DGR and is also assisting OPG in the seeking of licensing from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

It must be stressed that OPG's L&ILW DGR Project and NWMO's APM Project for used fuel will continue to be separate and distinct projects; NWMO's role as OPG's contractor for the L&ILW DGR Project is completely separate from NWMO's role with the APM Project.



AMEC engineer Peter Nimmrichter measures the elevation change across a culvert at the Bruce nuclear site as part of the mapping of the site drainage network. The information will be used in the safety assessment currently being compiled by NWMO on behalf of OPG.

## GEOSCIENCE STUDIES ALMOST COMPLETE

**The gathering of data** from a four-year, stepwise geoscientific site characterization program for Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW), initiated in the fall of 2006, is drawing to a close with the hydraulic testing of inclined borehole DGR-6.

The hydraulic testing of DGR-6 (one of six boreholes drilled beneath the site) is expected to be completed by the end of June 2010. This milestone will signal the completion of the geoscience field work, as set out under the Geoscientific Site Characterization Plan, for the L&ILW DGR at the Bruce nuclear site.

The initial results from the current work at DGR-6 are consistent with the hydraulic testing results of four deep vertical

boreholes and DGR-5 (inclined borehole). Consistent findings indicate the low-permeability limestone bedrock found at the repository horizon coupled with the 200-metre-thick cap of low-permeability shale bedrock directly above, will provide multiple natural barriers for the safe management of low and intermediate nuclear waste for many tens of thousands of years and beyond.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), on behalf of OPG, continues to move forward with all of its work programs in the areas of geoscience, safety assessment, engineering and preliminary design, environmental field work and community engagement. These work programs, along with their results, will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is expected to be submitted to the Joint Review Panel early in 2011, and distributed for public comment prior to the anticipated public hearing in 2012.

## L&ILW DGR TECHNICAL REPORTS AVAILABLE IN EIGHT LOCAL LIBRARIES

**A wealth of technical documentation** in support of the environmental assessment and licensing process for Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for the long-term management of low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW) is available on the NWMO website at [www.nwmo.ca/dgr](http://www.nwmo.ca/dgr). However, we would also like to remind you that hard copies of technical reports including early feasibility studies, the project description and technical documents for work programs in the areas of geoscience, safety assessment and engineering/design – 20 documents in all – can be viewed at libraries located in: Southampton, Port Elgin, Kincardine, Ripley, Walkerton, Chesley, Wiarton and Tobermory. Additional documents will be made available in these libraries as they become available.