

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 22, 2004 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

held at Toronto, Ontario, commencing at 1:00 p.m. and concluding at 6:00 p.m. on June 22, 2004.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Fred Gilbert	Member
Eva Ligeti	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

NWMO:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary

PART I

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
The agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the Advisory Council meeting held on May 20, 2004, a copy having been sent to each member of the Council, were approved with one point of clarification.

PART II

REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

3. Discussion Document 2

The President tabled Draft One of NWMO's Discussion Document, *Understanding the Choices*, for Advisory Council review and comment. The President noted that this was an early draft, shared with the Council for the purpose of inviting suggestions on the structure, clarity and presentation of content for the Document.

Council discussion ensued, as members provided extensive comments and suggestions to the NWMO relating to each part of the document.

Advisory Council members recommended editorial enhancements to the Document to improve the readability and the clarity with which key messages are conveyed:

- Council discussed the appropriate level of detail to support public discussion.
- Members suggested that the document highlight the specific insights gained from NWMO's public engagement activities and how those insights are guiding the ongoing assessment process. Members recommended elaboration in the document to convey how the public has helped to shape the issues and questions addressed in the study, including how the public input has been translated into objectives and the assessment framework.
- Some members offered suggestions for expanding upon the research findings from the National Citizens' Dialogue:
 - Members noted some of the additional themes that they had heard during the Dialogue sessions, such as the emphasis that many participants placed on retaining access to the used fuel to take advantage of new knowledge and technology.
 - Members suggested elaborating on how the Dialogue was conducted, and how the research findings were incorporated into NWMO's work.
- Council recommended clarification on NWMO's legislated mandate with respect to consultation with aboriginal peoples.
- Members suggested reporting in more detail on the extent of engagement realized to date through website visits and submissions and comments received by the NWMO.
- Members suggested that additional detail be included on the background papers and analysis commissioned by NWMO that have contributed to the study of management options.

- Members recommended further elaboration in the Document on the composition of the Assessment Team and its role, and how the Team considered the insights from NWMO's engagement and research on Canadian values.
- Council emphasized the importance of distinguishing where findings in the Document (particularly in Part 2) are those of a third party, such as the Assessment Team, as opposed to findings or conclusions of NWMO. It was underscored that the Document must convey clearly that the Assessment Team provided a preliminary assessment only, in that the analysis of options is continuing and NWMO has much more work to do before it is prepared to table a draft recommendation.
- The Council supported the use of direct quotations from public engagement activities to provide comments in the words of Canadians, not interpreted by NWMO. Where quotations are used, Council emphasized that they should not be ascribed to individuals or organizations.
- Council suggested that the Document highlight where two parallel tracks of work with different participants— public engagement and expert analysis – led to convergence on many key themes and findings.
- Suggestions were tabled to clarify concepts and terminology that might not be readily understood by a broad readership. Members offered some factual corrections.
- Council flagged the need to separate out more clearly the reporting back on NWMO's past activities from NWMO's next steps. It was recommended that NWMO clarify areas which will form the basis of the next study phase, including examples of issues to be examined in depth as the NWMO continues to assess the relative strengths and limitations of the management approaches.

The Advisory Council discussed the nature of public engagement planned to follow release of Discussion Document 2:

- It was suggested that the Document outline some of the specific engagement activities to be launched by the NWMO. The Document should communicate that public engagement is continuing to play an important role as NWMO furthers its assessment of the options. Council members noted that participants who have engaged in dialogues to date will be interested in following the NWMO's work, and NWMO should make those opportunities well known.
- Members suggested a schematic depiction be provided to illustrate the ongoing and growing role of public input at each stage of the NWMO study.
- The Document should outline how the public might contact NWMO, and the various ways in which the public can share comments, including through web-based activities.
- Council advised that other formats of engagement tools may be useful to supplement the large Discussion Document, such as smaller backgrounders and

an Executive Summary or possibly electronic means of facilitating dialogue around the Discussion Document and the assessment framework.

- Suggestions were tabled regarding discussion questions that might be included in the document to stimulate comments from the public.

The President thanked the Advisory Council for its comments, and undertook to address the suggestions in the next draft of the document.

The NWMO has scheduled a conference call for early July to invite Council discussion on the next draft of the Discussion Document.

4. Tabling of Reports

The President tabled a number of reports with the Advisory Council flowing from NWMO's engagement activities, including reports from the:

- Roundtable Dialogue with Youth at the International Youth Nuclear Congress;
- Roundtable Dialogue with Durham Nuclear Health Committee; and
- National Stakeholder and Regional Dialogue Sessions.

The President reported to the Advisory Council on NWMO's work in progress to scope out the next phase of public engagement that will build on the Council's suggestions previously tabled for broad and open engagement. Council had encouraged the provision of opportunities for the general public to receive information on the NWMO study through informal open sessions available nationally.

She noted that staff have been meeting with engagement practitioners to explore possible designs for the public outreach that will follow release of Discussion Document 2. In this regard, the President shared with the Advisory Council some of NWMO's preliminary thinking:

- Engagement with the general public will be sought through a series of community-based information and discussion sessions in Fall 2004. Consistent with Council advice, it is intended that there be a large number of information sessions convened across different regions of the country. These sessions would be well advertised in advance. NWMO staff will work in teams to deliver these information and discussion sessions across the country. NWMO will seek to have an Assessment Team member available at these sessions who can speak about the design of the assessment framework and the Team's preliminary assessment of the options.
- Aboriginal engagement will be expanded, consistent with Council's advice to date and ongoing advice from the Advisory Council's Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Engagement.
- Reactor site community dialogues will continue.
- Electronic engagement will be expanded through deliberative surveys and a series of e-dialogues designed to pursue some specific issues in depth.

- In parallel, NWMO will continue to provide briefings upon request and seek to keep government departments updated on the NWMO work.

As these preliminary plans are drafted in more detail, they will be reviewed with the Advisory Council.

PART III

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Advisory Council convened a closed session, in camera with the Chairman.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 6:00 p.m.

Dated the 18th day of October, 2004
Corporate Secretary