



NWMO National Questionnaire

July, 2005

(Introduction)
(Record Gender)

1. In your opinion, what is the single most important issue facing Canada today? **(OPEN END, ACCEPT FIRST MENTION ONLY)**
2. And what is the most important issue facing your local community today, in other words, the one that concerns you personally the most? **(PROBE IF NOT CLEAR: And what exactly do you mean by that?) (OPEN END, ACCEPT FIRST MENTION ONLY)**

Now, I would like to turn your attention to the issue of nuclear power.

3. On balance, would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the use of nuclear power for generating electricity?

Strongly support..... 1
Somewhat support..... 2
Somewhat oppose..... 3
Strongly oppose..... 4
DK/NR 9

4. As far as you are aware, is nuclear power an important source of electricity in your province?

Yes 1
No 2
DK/NR 9

5. Using a scale between one and seven where one means you are not at all familiar and seven means you are very familiar, overall how familiar would you say you are with nuclear waste and how it is managed in Canada?

Not at all familiar 1
..... 2
..... 3
..... 4
..... 5
..... 6
Very familiar..... 7
DK/NR 99

6. Whenever nuclear power is used to generate electricity, some used nuclear fuel is leftover. To the best of your knowledge, or if you had to guess, for how long does this used nuclear fuel have to be managed before it is no longer hazardous? **(DO NOT READ LIST) (ACCEPT ONE MENTION)**

Less than 10 years..... 1
10 years to less than 100 years..... 2
100 years to less than 1,000 years 3
1,000 years to less than 10,000 years..... 4
10,000 years or more/Forever 5
DK/NR 99

In fact, used nuclear fuel has to be isolated from humans for at least many thousands of years before it is no longer hazardous.

7. Have you read, seen or heard anything recently about an organization created by the federal government to examine the used nuclear fuel issue and make recommendations on how to manage this nuclear waste in the future?

Yes 1
No 2
DK/NR 9

IF YES, What have you heard?

Three years ago, the federal government passed a law to create the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, also known by its initials as the NWMO. I am going to read you a brief statement about the goal of the NWMO.

The NWMO is an organization created in the fall of 2002 to recommend a long-term approach for managing used nuclear fuel produced by Canada's electricity generators. While nuclear waste in Canada is currently being safely managed, no permanent long-term management solution has been adopted.

The first job of the NWMO is to recommend a plan to the government of Canada for the management of this used nuclear fuel by November 2005. In developing this plan, the NWMO is required to consult stakeholders, experts and the general public as it develops a comprehensive, integrated and economically sound approach for Canada.

8. Based on what you have just heard, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the mandate of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization?

Strongly support..... 1
Somewhat support..... 2
Somewhat oppose..... 3
Strongly oppose..... 4
DK/NR 9

9. The NWMO adopted several principles to guide the recommended option for the long term management of used nuclear fuel waste, please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of these principles:

- a. The approach should be safe and secure – to protect people and the environment
- b. The approach must be fair in how it distributes costs, benefits and responsibilities to different regions and communities
- c. The approach must take advantage of the best technical and scientific knowledge and expertise available in Canada and around the world
- d. The approach must be responsive to the values and objectives that are important to citizens
- e. The approach must ensure that the companies who created the waste have set aside enough funds to pay the costs of managing the waste
- f. The approach must be fair to future generations.

Now, I would like to ask your opinion about a particular option for managing the used nuclear fuel waste – called Adaptive Phased Management. Here is a brief description:

1. Used fuel would be moved from nuclear power stations, where it is currently temporarily stored, to a centralized site and placed in a specially constructed repository built deep underground. This repository would be designed to isolate and contain the waste for the very long time period for which it remains hazardous.

10. In what way, if any, does it sound reasonable or appropriate?

11. Now, please tell me what concerns, if any, you have?

2. We would put this repository in place using a phased decision making process, supported by a program of continuous learning, research and development. By a phased decision-making process, we mean breaking the work into a series of steps. At each step we might decide to revise, halt or reverse our plan. This would allow us to take advantage of new learning, any new technologies which may emerge, and changes in the needs of society.

12. In what way, if any, does it sound reasonable or appropriate?

13. Now, please tell me what concerns, if any, you have about the approach?

3. Before we place the used fuel in a deep repository, we might decide to go through an additional step of interim shallow storage. The used fuel would be moved from the reactor sites to the central site, where the deep repository would be located, and put in a shallow underground storage facility. This would allow more time for research and decision-making about the deep repository before used fuel is placed in it.

14 In what way, if any, does it sound reasonable or appropriate?

15. Now, please tell me what concerns, if any, you have about the approach?

4. The used fuel would be monitored to support the collection of new information and to confirm the safety and performance of the repository. For an extended period, the used fuel would also be retrievable, that is until a future society decides to close the repository.

16. In what way, if any, does it sound reasonable or appropriate?

17. Now, please tell me what concerns, if any, you have?

5. The implementation of this adaptive phased approach might be spread over a period of as much as 300 years.

18. In what way, if any, does it sound reasonable or appropriate?

19. What concerns, if any, do you have?

20. Now I would like to learn your reaction to different characteristics or attributes of the approach. On a scale of one to nine where one means not at all important and nine means extremely important, how important is it to you that this approach:

- a. Includes phased decision-making;
- b. Has a long time-frame for implementation;
- c. Involves the public at each step;
- d. Is flexible enough to adapt to new learning, and new developments in science and technology;
- e. Is flexible enough to respond to the needs and concerns of society as these may change over time;
- f. Includes monitoring of the used fuel over an extended period;
- g. Includes opportunity to retrieve the used fuel over an extended period;
- h. Provides future generations with genuine choice in how the approach is implemented
- i. Will seek to locate the facility in a community that is willing to accept it;
- j. Focuses the site location process on the provinces that are directly involved with nuclear energy and nuclear fuel – Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick;
- k. Requires the site to meet scientific and technical criteria;
- l. Requires the site to meet social and ethical requirements;
- m. Requires decisions about the site to be made in collaboration with the community where the repository is sited;
- n. Ensures the operation of the repository contributes in a positive way to the community in which it is located.

21. Would you say you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with each of the following statements? (read and randomize)

- a) Since our generation was the one which created the nuclear waste, we should be the ones to decide on and implement an approach to manage it.
- b) Since nuclear waste remains hazardous for a long time, we should let future generations decide how they wish to deal with it.

c) I believe that scientific research will soon produce a technology that will render nuclear waste safe by eliminating its radioactivity and allowing it to become part of the natural environment again.

d) I believe that future societies will be less able to deal with this waste than we are today

Now, I just have a few questions for statistical purposes only.

- 22. Age
- 23. Income
- 24. Gender (do not ask)
- 25. Education
- 26. Children
- 27. Rural/urban
- 28. Prov
- 29. Regions

30. Finally, I'd like to ask you some questions about your level of involvement in current issues, if you don't mind. For each of the following, I'd like you to tell me, with a yes or no answer, whether you have done this **in the last year**. How about: (Rotate)

- a Spoken at a public meeting
- b Written a letter to a newspaper editor
- c Called a television or radio talk show that deals with public affairs issues
- d Written an article for a publication
- e Been a member of a community service organization
- f Served as an officer of a non-governmental organization, that deals with public policy issues
- g Written to an elected representative
- h Been a member of or worked for a political party