NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Preliminary Assessment of Potential Suitability – Feasibility Studies

Draft for Discussion With Communities Involved in the Site Selection Process

STEP 3

The Next Step in the Site Selection Process

A number of communities have come forward identifying an interest in learning more about the NWMO siting process and about potentially hosting the project through participation in Step 3 of the site selection process. Feasibility studies are an important component of this work.

A feasibility study is designed to assess, in a preliminary way, the suitability of a community and associated site(s) to host the project. These studies are an opportunity for both the community and the NWMO to explore four key questions that will be important in assessing the suitability of communities for this project.

Key Questions to be Addressed in Feasibility Studies

- Safety, security and protection of people and the environment are central to the siting process. ***Is there the potential to find a safe site?***
- The project will be implemented in a way that will foster the long-term well-being of the community. ***Is there the potential to foster the well-being of the community through the implementation of the project, and what might need to be put in place (e.g. infrastructure, resources, planning initiatives) to ensure this outcome?***
- At a later step in the process (Step 5), the community must demonstrate it is informed and willing to host the project. ***Is there the potential for citizens in the community to continue to be interested in exploring this project through subsequent steps in the site selection process?***
- The project will be implemented in a way that will foster the long-term well-being of the surrounding area. ***Is there the potential to foster the well-being of the surrounding area and region, and establish the foundation to move forward with the project?***

Work will be conducted in two phases with the opportunity for stock-taking by both the community and the NWMO at the end of each phase. Some communities with relatively low potential to be suitable for the project may be screened out of the process at the end of the first phase of work. By the end of the second phase of work, one or two of the communities may be selected for the next step in the site selection process: detailed studies over a five-year period (Step 4). The communities selected for Step 4 detailed studies will be those that hold the most potential for successful implementation of the project based on work that the NWMO and community complete together to explore these key questions.

Key Activities

The feasibility study is designed to be implemented through a partnership involving the interested community and the NWMO.

Phase One Activities

- Are expected to take a year or more to complete
- Will focus on desktop studies and engagement of the community
- Begin formal engagement with surrounding communities
- Build on earlier work completed as part of the site selection process

1. Agreement is made between the NWMO and accountable authorities in the community on how the work will proceed.
2. Scientific and technical studies are conducted to further explore the potential suitability of the geology in the area and to identify potentially suitable smaller siting areas. This involves desktop studies by the NWMO.
3. The potential effects of the project on the long-term well-being of the community are further explored through desktop studies and engagement of community residents. The NWMO and accountable authorities work together to complete this work.
4. Accountable authorities in the surrounding area, including Aboriginal communities, are engaged to identify questions and concerns which will need to be addressed. The NWMO and accountable authorities work together in this engagement.
5. The NWMO and the community take stock of work to date and findings about the potential suitability of the community.

Phase Two Activities

- Are expected to take a year or more to complete
- Will focus on field studies in the community
- Expand regional engagement with launch of a regional study
- Build on work completed during Phase One feasibility studies

1. The NWMO and the accountable authorities in the community confirm the plan for Phase Two activities.
2. Limited scientific and technical field studies are conducted to further assess potential suitability of identified siting areas. This work is conducted by the NWMO.
3. The potential effects of the project on the long-term well-being of the community are further explored through interviews and studies. The NWMO and accountable authorities work together to complete this work.
4. Citizens in the community are engaged to help refine the list of potential siting areas. The NWMO and accountable authorities work together in this engagement.
5. Accountable authorities in the surrounding area, including Aboriginal communities, are engaged in a regional study to explore and assess potential effects on the well-being of the broader region as well as potential interest in the project. The NWMO and accountable authorities in the community work together in this engagement.
6. A third-party review group reviews the NWMO's work. Members of this group are selected by the NWMO and accountable authorities in communities involved in the site selection process.
7. The NWMO and the accountable authorities in the community take stock of work to date and findings about the potential suitability of the community and siting area(s).
8. The NWMO identifies which communities and associated sites are eligible to proceed to Step 4 for Detailed Evaluations.

Learn More About Feasibility Studies

In order to participate in feasibility studies, the community must have successfully undergone an initial screening by the NWMO (as part of Step 2 in the site selection process). Communities meeting the initial screening criteria and that have decided they wish to proceed to Step 3 and feasibility studies must formally notify the NWMO, providing a copy of Council resolution. Communities wishing to engage in feasibility studies are not obliged to participate in subsequent steps of the process.

Feasibility studies are designed to be implemented through a partnership involving the interested community and the NWMO. In order to proceed to feasibility studies, and to continue in the process once initiated, accountable authorities must show:

- A continued interest in learning more about the project;
- A willingness to engage community members in the learning process;
- A willingness to work with surrounding communities and Aboriginal peoples to learn about and explore the project; and
- A willingness to participate with integrity, transparency and accountability throughout all activities associated with participation in the process.

To learn more, see our brochure *Preliminary Assessment of Potential Suitability – Feasibility Studies*.

For more information, please contact:

Jamie Robinson
Director, Communications
Nuclear Waste Management Organization
22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M4T 2S3
Canada
Email: learnmore@nwmo.ca

nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES