

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: January 28, 2013 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)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST on January 28, 2013

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Wesley Cragg
Fred Gilbert
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Donald Obonsawin
Michel Rhéaume

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash President & CEO
Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection
Gillian Morris Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Diane Barker Environmental Assessment Manager
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
John Fraser Director, Community Engagement
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs
Paul Gierszewski Director, Repository Safety
Raymond Hatfield Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Relations
Chris Hatton Director, APM Repository Design & Development
Michael Hung CFO
Frank King VP and Chief Engineer OPG DGR Licensing and QA
Mike Krizanc Communications Manager
Elena Mantagaris Director, Government & External Relations
Jamie Matear
Alan Murchison Manager, Repository Engineering Design
Sean O'Dwyer VP, Human Resources
Pat Patton Director, Aboriginal Relations
Sean Russell Director, APM Repository Research and Development
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson VP, L&ILW DGR Design & Construction

Guests:

Edward Connors Onkwatenro'shon: 'A Health Planners

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

Constitution of Meeting

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Dr. Marlyn Cook introduced Dr. Edward Connors and they provided the opening prayer and smudge.

GUEST PRESENTER

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

2. Guest Presentation on Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge: Dr. Edward Connors

Dr. Edward Connors made a presentation to the Advisory Council entitled Two Minds, Two World Views. Key themes of his presentation were:

- Discussion of the Gaswentha or Two Row Wampum;
- Good Mind - requires that we work towards common interests and respect differences;
- Peace - requires good communication from good mind and speaks to establishing and maintaining balanced relationship(s);
- Strength - comes from these actions and results in friendship / balanced relationships;
- Peace - friendship, respect, balance, equality;
- Development of left and right-brained thinking through the years; and
- The need to value the importance of traditional knowledge to result in decisions that benefit all. This defines true respect.

Dr. Connors also presented a list of recommended readings for Council members.

Marlyn Cook thanked Dr. Connors for his presentation and emphasized the need for NWMO to continue to strive to interweave Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge with its decision-making processes. Council members all expressed their appreciation for a very interesting and informative presentation.

Council members had a dialogue with Dr. Connors which included:

- A discussion of Aboriginal teachings. Dr. Connors spoke about the Seven Fires Prophecy and referenced the recent CBC program 8th Fire. He noted that each fire speaks to the stages of movements of the Ojibway peoples from the Atlantic Coast inland and what will happen in those times. All prophecies have come to pass up to the 7th fire. In the 8th fire it says that the Ojibway people will return to their ways, teachings and understandings and that will help us live in a good way and when that occurs, if those of other cultures can incorporate that knowledge into their wisdom, we will live in peace and prosperity;

- A Council member asked what NWMO should be taking away from the current Idle No More movement? Dr. Connors explained that there is clear evidence that the First Nations people have created and invite an open dialogue and there is now global recognition and awareness of the issues (First Nations concerns);
- Council discussed the effects of social media and new technology on communication and how it is effectively being used to allow people to be part of processes and provide direction to leadership;
- A Council member suggested the challenge for NWMO is how to operationalize and interweave science with Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. Dr. Connors suggested the first step is acknowledging and agreeing that this is an important challenge to take on and involving people who are accepting and respectful of this to engage in dialogue. It will be important to have a balance of people engaged with both left and right brain skills;
- A Council member suggested that there is something circular about NWMO's task and NWMO is putting back material that was originally taken from Mother Earth in a modified form. Another Council member noted that some First Nations object to this as the uranium has been modified and suggested it may be difficult to get past this barrier; Dr. Connors suggested that dialogue and exploration of the two worldviews will help to resolve this;
- A Council member asked how NWMO can sensitively involve the Aboriginal communities near the siting communities. Dr. Connors suggested NWMO needs to continue to establish relationships of true respect and equality;
- A Council member suggested looking at models where Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge has been successfully integrated noting there has been some significant work on how to bring the two distinct world views together in the justice system;
- A discussion was had about a number of pieces of literature that demonstrate holistic approaches to conflict resolution (examples include Three Day Road, Dancing With a Ghost);
- A staff member asked a question about some decision points that will need to be addressed in the near future about locations and that NWMO wants to incorporate ATK to the extent possible at this point in the siting process. The staff member asked for some ideas for operationalizing this. Dr. Connors responded that how it is done, and when, will be important and suggested that if decisions have already been made before you have engaged with Aboriginal peoples, it will be seen as an afterthought;
- A Council member suggested identifying the characteristics of a balanced model of bringing left brain and right brain thinking together would be helpful. Dr. Connors suggested true Elders are those who have those characteristics and advice he received from an Elder was to look for people who are egoless, look for those who are absolutely giving and seek nothing in return and are totally balanced.

David Crombie thanked Dr. Connors for his very interesting presentation. Dr. Connors departed from the meeting.

A Council member reminded Council members that the 5 items Council asked management to bring for discussion in the afternoon session were:

1. Ed Connors presentation (completed);
2. How do we blend ATK with western science, horizontal integration;
3. Procurement strategy;
4. Aboriginal engagement; and
5. Student bursaries.

3. Site Selection Process

Further to the Advisory Council's request to understand NWMO's detailed workplans on traditional knowledge and Aboriginal engagement, the afternoon meeting was designed to support various staff presentations for discussion and advice from the Council.

To set the context for this discussion, Kathryn Shaver reviewed for the Council the status of the communities engaged in the siting process. She reviewed the principles guiding the dialogue-driven process and noted that many of the specific details of the NWMO workplan are determined directly with each of the individual communities. Ms. Shaver reviewed components of the preliminary assessments of potential suitability of communities and sites. She highlighted possible future timelines for the siting process that is focused on identifying a safe location for the repository in an informed, willing host community.

Council members discussed the update:

- A Council member asked whether NWMO planned to follow through with a suggestion from a 2008 study for engaging a pilot community that would not be engaged in the siting process to explore social issues. Mr. Nash noted that advice given to NWMO by the Elders Forum suggested that findings would be very different from area to area and that this may not be useful as the information may not relate to the eventual site which is chosen. Another staff member suggested that it would not be helpful, at this point, to be speaking with another community that is not engaged in the siting process as this could cause concern as to the reasons for the approach but that NWMO has ongoing engagement with National and regional Aboriginal organizations.
- A Council member noted that there are communities from different broad regions engaged in the siting process and that there may be merits in continuing to work with a diversity of geographic areas.
- A Council member offered to speak with NWMO staff about community well-being studies associated with the Ring of Fire that may be of interest to NWMO
- Another Council member suggested that as NWMO narrows down the communities, it is important for the other communities in the area to stay involved as a part of the regional process.

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel discussed NWMO's assessments of relative geoscientific suitability outlining the objectives and the approach for assessing relative suitability.

Council members asked questions about Mr. Belfadhel's presentation, seeking clarification on some of the geological references. On request of Council, Mr. Belfadhel elaborated on how long-term stability will be addressed over extended timeframes and takes into account climatic changes over very long time horizons.

A Council member suggested NWMO add spiritual surveys to the formal list of planned activities, and asked when this might be addressed. Staff reported that this, and other ceremonies, could be planned with local Elders when field work occurs in the next phase of the assessment process, potentially as early as 2014. Council urged that NWMO explicitly acknowledge its plan to consider spiritual ceremonies as part of the list of activities planned for next phases of assessments. Staff agreed to amend the list with this addition.

4. Building Relationships with Aboriginal People: 2013 Workplan

Jo-Ann Facella provided some background on NWMO's work to build relationships with Aboriginal peoples. That engagement and involving them in decision-making and the site selection process is a critical part of the NWMO APM work program and is guided by the NWMO Aboriginal Policy and the site selection process. Ms. Facella discussed that the overarching principle, which is the foundation of NWMO's work with Aboriginal peoples, is respectful relations and the recognition that Aboriginal communities have their own priorities and process which needs to be understood in order to engage with them.

Pat Patton discussed background to the NWMO's approach in learning about Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and its influence in all of the NWMO's work along with the engagement plan objectives for 2013 Aboriginal engagement. She reviewed the plans for work with local Aboriginal communities in the siting areas, the approach in Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and the ongoing activities with national and regional aboriginal organizations. Ms. Patton also reviewed the plan to procure services from Aboriginal firms as related to the current Phase 1 of the Preliminary Assessments. Mr. Nash confirmed that NWMO is engaging Aboriginal contractors this year.

Council members provided the following suggestions on the Aboriginal engagement plan presented:

- That NWMO involve First Nations contractors as early as possible in the site selection process;
- That spiritual surveys and spiritual aspects of traditional knowledge on the land be explored now, early in the process, and not left to the future identification of the final site. NWMO's understanding of spiritual aspects of the land should be evident in the current dialogue;
- A Council member suggested NWMO look for opportunities to work with Elders to build on the morning discussion with Dr. Ed Connors to advance thinking on how to move forward with the application of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.
- A Council member offered the contact information for a graduate student at Laurentian University with background and interest in exploring technical subjects with Aboriginal communities;
- NWMO might invite young Aboriginal people to write stories about their communities (not directly related to NWMO) but about what's important to them in their communities. Mr. Watt committed to pursue the idea with communities; and
- That NWMO speak with Hydro-Québec and its best practices from the James Bay project which worked with Cree organizations.

A Council member noted that First Nations will want to be involved in their own Traditional Knowledge studies but given that there are sensitivities to sharing information it will be necessary to participate in a process together with communities to ensure that information is shared as wished by the community. This may take some time.

. A Council member suggested that if a community is identified before Aboriginal people in the area are meaningfully involved, the siting process will experience difficulty in proceeding.

Staff noted that ideas for engaging Aboriginal youth and pursuing scholarships would be addressed by the Council of Elders. Council and staff discussed the role of the siting communities in engaging their surrounding Aboriginal communities and was encouraged to learn that many communities have begun to reach out to their neighbours along with the NWMO.

Mr. Nash remarked that the Aboriginal engagement program has a substantial budget for 2013 and have added staff capabilities. The challenge is not identifying more activities than could be initiated. Rather it is important to identify the priorities and what needs to be done, and do those things well. He welcomed Council to provide any ideas on priorities.

5. Council of Elders

Bob Watts discussed the topics that would be the focus of the new Council of Elders (COE) and the newly appointed Elders that would be assisting NWMO with the understanding and application of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

Mr. Watts reported that some additional appointments of Elders were planned for the COE in 2013. An Advisory Council member asked if the COE had made a decision on a confirmed female co-chair. Mr. Watts reported that this would be discussed at an upcoming conference call. Advisory Council members asked to be updated when new Elders join the COE.

6. In Camera Session

The Council convened an *in camera* session. Further to this discussion, Council members request that NWMO provide supplementary sessions in 2013 to address important topics of transportation and NWMO's ethical framework.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:30 pm.

Dated the 27th day of May 2013.

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection