NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Recognizing Community Leadership

Canada's Plan for Used Nuclear Fuel

Over the course of a three-year nationwide dialogue from 2003 to 2005, Canadians laid out a plan for the long-term care of our country's used nuclear fuel. The plan, called Adaptive Phased Management (APM), requires that Canada's long-term used fuel management facilities be sited in a safe location in a community that is informed and willing.

Beginning in May 2010, the NWMO launched a multi-year process to identify a safe location and an informed and willing host for a deep geological repository for managing Canada's used nuclear fuel and an associated Centre of Expertise.

The Fundamental Role of Communities

The site selection process was designed to be led by communities interested in learning about the project and potentially taking on the national responsibility of hosting Canada's used nuclear fuel management facilities. Working together with the NWMO, communities actively guide learning and dialogue about this national plan.

By Fall 2013, 21 communities had expressed interest in learning more about the project and 20 were actively leading preliminary assessments, the third of nine steps in the process. Through these studies, communities learn more and explore whether they might be suitable for the project.

Eight communities have completed the first phase of these assessments. Twelve others are in progress and are expected to be completed at a later date.

A Time to Take Stock

Completing Phase 1 studies with the first eight communities marks an important milestone in the site selection process and a scheduled point of stock-taking. Guided by findings from this first phase of work, the NWMO has started to take decisions about where it will focus the next phase of studies.

The NWMO has also taken this opportunity to reflect on the contribution these communities have made to advancing Canada's plan to safely and securely manage used nuclear fuel over the long term.

COMMUNITIES THAT COMPLETED PHASE 1 OF PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS IN 2013:

- Creighton, Saskatchewan
- Ear Falls, Ontario
- English River First Nation, Saskatchewan
- Hornepayne, Ontario
- Ignace, Ontario
- Pinehouse, Saskatchewan
- Schreiber, Ontario
- Wawa, Ontario

Community Leadership

The strong leadership of the eight communities that have concluded Phase 1 studies has helped pave the way for the safe and secure long-term management of used nuclear fuel in Canada.

- They effectively launched the process for Canada, and through their willingness to learn about the project, they have advanced the implementation of our country's plan.
- Working directly with the NWMO, they have helped shape and evolve the activities and steps required in a siting process to ensure meaningful community involvement.
- They led the way in defining how safety of the project needs to be demonstrated by raising questions and concerns, and by taking the lead on learning within their communities and among neighbours.
- They have laid the basis for working in partnership with local communities, surrounding communities and Aboriginal peoples.
- Through their active involvement in the site selection process, each of the communities has helped build understanding about how this project can be used as a foundation to further the objectives and well-being of communities, while meeting the national need for safe long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel.

Recognizing Leadership

After careful thought, the NWMO has developed a program to acknowledge the substantial contribution made on behalf of all Canadians by these communities as they conclude their respective Phase 1 studies.

At the end of this first phase of assessment, the NWMO will contribute $400,000 to each community, whether or not it has been identified for the next phase of studies, upon establishment of a Community Well-Being Reserve Fund. Administered by the communities, these funds support continuing efforts to build community sustainability and well-being. Examples of activities that could be supported include:

- Projects, programs or services for community youth
- Scholarship programs for community youth
- Projects, programs or services for community seniors
- Projects or programs to support community sustainability
- Projects or programs to support community economic development
- Projects or programs to support energy efficiency

In 2013, the NWMO acknowledged the contributions made by the first eight communities as they concluded their first phase of assessment. Other communities will be similarly recognized upon completion of their Phase 1 studies.

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