

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: February 9-10, 2015 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 February 9, 2015

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

Regrets

Donald Obonsawin  
Marlyn Cook

NWMO Staff Present:

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

Contributing Staff:

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, Safety & Licensing  
Chris Hatton                 Director, Repository Design Development (Items 7-11)  
Mike Krizanc                Communications Manager (Items 1-6)  
Elena Mantagaris          Director, Government & External Relations  
Pat Moran                    General Counsel, Corporate Secretary (Item 10)  
Sean Russell                 Director, Environmental Assessment  
Bob Watts                    Director, Aboriginal Community Relations  
Derek Wilson                VP, Design and Construction (Items 7-11)

**February 9, 2015**

**ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed as written.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the meeting convened on November 25, 2014 with one minor edit noted.

Council was also provided with an updated Transparency Policy which reflected some of their suggestions. Council members asked the Transparency Policy be added for discussion on the next meeting agenda (\*).

**STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO**

**3. President's Report**

Mr. Nash reported on recent activities in the NWMO work program:

- APM site selection continues to advance with municipal and Aboriginal communities;
- meetings took place with Ontario Government ministries, federal departments and the CNSC (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission);
- NWMO attended and made a presentation on APM and NWMO's mandate at a workshop given by the Candu Owners Group on advanced fuel cycles;
- work on transportation logistics continued;
- work on the five-year update of the APM Lifecycle Cost Estimate continued;
- on the low and intermediate level waste DGR, the Joint Review Panel Report is expected in early May; and
- Switzerland has identified two possible sites for a possible DGR in that country.

**4. Status of Site Selection Process**

Management reviewed the status of Phase 1 assessment work. This discussion included a debrief on the public rollout of Phase 1 findings and decisions for communities that took place in December 2014 and January 2015.

Management reported on Phase 2 assessment work underway with different communities. Detailed findings were presented from Phase 2 work conducted in 2014 for Ignace, Creighton and Schreiber. Council discussed the findings from the Phase 2 surveys asking numerous questions about interpretation of the surveys on geology fractures. Lisa Frizzell reviewed NWMO's plan for communicating the results of the Phase 2 preliminary findings in two communities.

Plans for initiating Phase 2 work with additional communities now entering Phase 2 were also reviewed.

As a follow up to an earlier request by the Council, Jo-Ann Facella provided examples of how community well-being funds awarded in 2014 were being directed by communities to their respective well-being priorities.

## **5. APM Program Overview and Risk Assessment**

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management highlighted key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM, which included Council's earlier suggested addition.

## **6. Building Relationships**

Council received NWMO's reports on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, engagement activities, media coverage and recent meetings of the Council of Elders.

Council members discussed the reports. A Council member requested a copy of the Assertion of Sovereignty statement released by the Chiefs of Ontario (\*). A Council member also suggested NWMO should continue to brief the elected representatives in Quebec to ensure they are informed on APM particularly in relation to transportation matters. Lisa Frizzell advised Council of a forthcoming article on radioactive waste in the Report on Business magazine.

## **7. APM Technical Program Update**

Derek Wilson provided an update on the APM engineered barrier and proof testing work. He reported the highlights of the work during the period which included;

- delivering the first copper coated used fuel container as per the year-end objective;
- completing the APM preclosure safety and ALARA review of the Mark 1 and Mark 2 designs; and
- further advancing the layout and functionality of the test facility.

Council members discussed where the production work would be undertaken for container prototypes.

## **8. Review of NWMO Support to OPG L&ILW DGR**

Paul Gierszewski provided Council members with an update on the Joint Review Panel (JRP) process for the OPG low and intermediate level deep geological repository. Mr. Gierszewski reported that the JRP announced the close of the public record on November 18<sup>th</sup>. A Panel Recommendation Report would be delivered to the Minister of the Environment on or before May 6, 2015.

Derek Wilson reported that there remains limited activity in both the design and construction and regulatory approvals phases of work until the JRP report becomes available.

Council members talked about the 2014 events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico and whether NWMO had reviewed lessons learned. Mr. Wilson reported that NWMO has conducted a thorough review on the report and recommendations from WIPP, although he noted WIPP's final report has yet to be released. A Council member also asked about whether NWMO is involved in producing

IAEA technical documents. Mr. Gierszewski noted that there are a number of tiers of documents produced by the IAEA and NWMO is involved in peer reviewing some of the higher-tier documents with the IAEA.

## **9. Transportation Plan**

Ken Nash discussed how NWMO will develop a plan, supported by engagement, to safely transport used fuel to a DGR as part of the Phase 2 site selection.

Chris Hatton reviewed the NWMO's work in progress on transportation logistics discussing transportation container design and options for modes of transport. Council members discussed various transportation scenarios related to the logistics study and underscored the public education value of the videos demonstrating the robustness of the transportation container.

## **10. Aboriginal Governance / Indigenous Law**

As requested by Council, guest speaker Chief Isadore Day from Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) was invited to the meeting to discuss perspectives on Aboriginal Governance and Indigenous Law.

Chief Day spoke about how the SRFN is developing a sustainable development decision-making model. He discussed how ideas related to revenue sharing, and the development of a major projects management office are helping to transform the approval process for major natural resources projects in the First Nation and treaty territory. Chief Day reported that providing education to young people within their communities to help fulfill their responsibilities is a key underpinning of this work.

Council members thanked Chief Day for his thoughtful presentation. Council members commented they found this to be an excellent presentation on how the SRRFN is working to move from the strategic to the tactical level while marrying cultural, spiritual technical, environmental and economic issues. Council observed that the focus on building communities' institutional capacity to decide on and implement projects is consistent with NWMO's approach.

## **11. Presentation on Alternative Fuel Cycles**

At the request of the Advisory Council, a discussion was had on Alternative Fuel Cycles which has been a recent topic of focus within the nuclear industry. Management discussed the presentation that NWMO recently delivered to workshop of the Candu Owners Group. Staff provided Council members with a copy of the latest NWMO watching brief on Reprocessing, Partitioning and Transmutation, which is important given the continuing external interest in other fuel cycles. Council members found this brief to be an effective communication tool and suggested it might be worthwhile for NWMO to have it validated by independent sources.

## **Termination of Meeting**

The Chairman declared the meeting for the day terminated at 3:45 pm.

**February 10, 2015**

The Council met in camera with management to discuss NWMO's Strategic Planning; a review of the Council's Letter to the Minister on the 2014 Annual Report, and a review of their 2014 Annual Tracking Matrix.

**Termination of Meeting**

The Chairman declared the meeting for the second day terminated at 12:00pm.

Dated the 27th day of May, 2015

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*David Crombie*  
*Advisory Council Chair*