

Canada's Plan for the Long-term Management of Used Nuclear Fuel - Aboriginal Engagement



Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental
Restoration for Canada's Nuclear Activities
- Canadian Nuclear Society

Stakeholder Interactions - 1

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nwmo

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Approach to NWMO Aboriginal Engagement



- » Broad and ongoing stakeholder engagement
- » Engagement of those potentially affected by NWMO's work a key focus
- » Committed to the active and meaningful participation of Aboriginal peoples
- » From its inception, the NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of Aboriginal peoples
- » Sought to lay a foundation for ongoing consultations and engagement that are respectful of traditional practices and approaches to decision-making
- » The building of long-term relationships with Aboriginal peoples and the establishment of processes that will “stand the test of time” are critical aspects of NWMO engagement
- » Collaborative development of programs that meet the needs of all parties

Principles



- » Good decision-making among Aboriginal peoples regarding the NWMO's work must be built on a foundation of knowledge to ensure that informed choices can be made by Aboriginal communities.
- » The NWMO recognizes and honours that Aboriginal peoples have a special relationship with the natural environment and have unique stewardship responsibilities that are part of this relationship.
- » Consideration for the safety and security of future generations is integral to the Aboriginal world view and fundamental to the decision-making processes of Aboriginal peoples.
- » Open and honest relationships are built on a foundation of trust and sharing of knowledge and information.
- » The NWMO acknowledges that Aboriginal peoples are holders of ATK and recognizes the value that ATK can bring to decision-making processes.



- » Study phase 2003-2005 - agreements with 15 national, regional and local Aboriginal organizations; projects, programs, dialogue designed, led and reported by Aboriginal peoples
- » Refinement of the proposed site-selection process in 2009
 - » agreements with provincial Aboriginal organizations
 - » collaboratively design and conduct regional dialogues to provide information and seek Aboriginal peoples' thoughts on *the Proposed Process for Selecting a Site for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel* and their involvement in this process
 - » Involvement of Aboriginal peoples in multi-party dialogues and other activities, when possible, to ensure their unique perspective influenced all discussions.
- » The NWMO acknowledges and respects the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples — Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada — as recognized and affirmed in s.35 of the *Constitution Act* (1982), and is committed to respecting the Aboriginal rights and treaties of Aboriginal communities potentially affected by its work.

Engagement Initiatives



- » Elders Forum/Niigani
- » Summer projects with Youth and Elders
- » Issue Tables on key topics of communications and innovative approaches to natural resource management
- » Traditional Knowledge Workshops and Project
- » Development of culturally appropriate communication materials
 - ◆ Translation of NWMO printed materials and DVD's into 9 Aboriginal languages
 - ◆ AFN developed communication documents on used nuclear fuel management to assist in building capacity with First Nations
- » Environmental Toolkit developed with Native Women's Association Canada
- » Projects with Assembly of First Nations



Engagement Initiatives

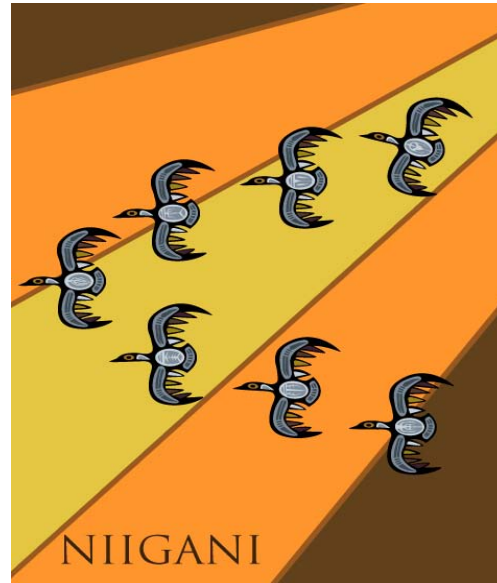


- » Ongoing meetings and briefings on request with Aboriginal organizations, communities, Elders groups, assemblies
- » Regional dialogues in SK, ON, QC, NB to seek input on proposed site selection process 2009
- » Liaison agreements with National and Provincial groups to build capacity and create opportunity for ongoing learning



- » NWMO Aboriginal Policy
- » Informing and beginning engagement with Aboriginal communities neighbouring communities interested in learning more
- » Memorandum of Understanding between NWMO and the Crown
- » Support for Ryerson University Chair in Indigenous Governance

Elders Forum/Niigani: Mission Statement



Protect and preserve all creation: air, land, water, fire, plants, medicine, animals and human kind - guided by the seven universal teachings of love, trust, sharing, honesty, humility, respect and wisdom.

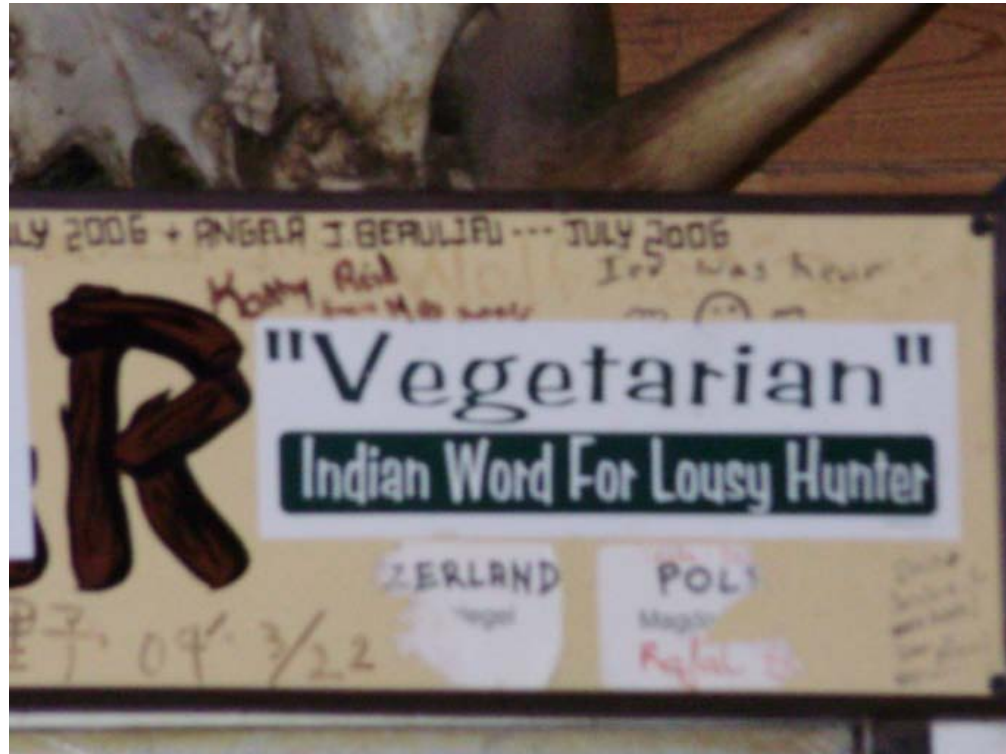
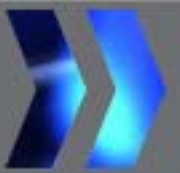
Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge



- » Traditional Knowledge is more than a simple compilation of facts drawn from local, and often remote, environments. It is a complex and sophisticated system of knowledge that draws on centuries of wisdom and experience, and continually grows and changes with new information.
- » It encompasses beliefs, understanding and ways of doing things.
- » Includes important knowledge about the land and ecology stemming from long contact with the land.
- » Traditional Knowledge systems assume that people are part of the land, not owners of it, and are guardians of Mother Earth.
- » ATK emphasizes the interrelationships between components of the environment, and the need to consider the biophysical, economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects of environmental management decisions.
- » ATK also includes knowledge about developing and maintaining effective and meaningful relationships between generations, and within and between communities.
 - » “seven generation” teachings - require decision-makers to consider the impact of decisions made today on seven generations into the future.

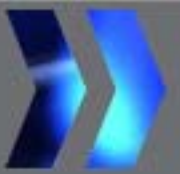
































Aboriginal Engagement– Going Forward



- » NWMO will facilitate early involvement and agreement with Aboriginal groups
- » NWMO will continue to build on the approaches and activities that have guided Aboriginal engagement to date.
- » An important goal is to ensure that this process recognizes the diversity of languages, practices and approaches among Aboriginal communities; the identification of sacred areas; understanding traditional laws, practices and use of land; and protection of species and culture to sustain community life.
- » The NWMO will seek the wisdom of Elders of affected Aboriginal communities and groups in the surrounding region and will work together with them as well as the leaders and members of the community to interweave their Traditional Knowledge with the NWMO's work.
- » Potential host communities are encouraged to involve surrounding communities, regions and potentially affected Aboriginal governments as early as possible
- » Resources available for Aboriginal communities to participate in the process -- as an interested and potentially willing community, or as a community that is nearby an interested community (as one of the surrounding communities).
- » Through a regional study (Step 4) ensure that those who are potentially affected are involved in planning how the project will be implemented.