

Plan for the Long-term Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel: Engaging at the Local Level



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

Peter Simmons
Director, Municipal and Community Engagement
September 12, 2011

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

- » Municipal Engagement
 - » Context setting
- » NWMO Municipal Forum
 - » Background and formation
 - » Work of the Forum
- » Municipal Associations
 - » Relationship building
 - » Communication
- » Sustained Municipal and Community Engagement



- » **NWMO Mission statement:** *The purpose of the NWMO is to develop and implement collaboratively with Canadians, a management approach for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel that is socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible and economically feasible*

Adaptive Phased Management: Canada's Plan for the Long-Term Management of Used Nuclear Fuel

APM emerged from dialogue with citizens and experts – best met key priorities

A Technical Method

- » Centralized containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel in deep geological repository
- » Continuous monitoring
- » Potential for retrievability
- » Optional step of shallow underground storage

A Management System

- » Flexibility in pace and manner of implementation
- » Phased and adaptive decision-making
- » Responsive to advances in technology, research, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, societal values
- » Open, inclusive, fair siting process - seek informed, willing host community
- » Sustained engagement of people and communities throughout implementation

APM approved by Federal government June 2007

Context Setting to Municipal Engagement

- » APM Project will be located in a willing and informed host community
- » Sustained engagement of people and communities throughout the phased process of decision-making and implementation
- » Understanding the community and local government perspective, issues and concerns critical to successful implementation of APM
 - » Hundreds of organized municipalities and constructs
 - » Ontario – 444
 - » Saskatchewan – 789
 - » Quebec - 1117
 - » New Brunswick - 102
- » Wide range of interests, views and local issues in communities in 4 nuclear provinces



- » Growing interest in the work of the NWMO and the siting process at the municipal community level
- » Informed communities will be key to the site selection process
- » Assembled municipal association leaders in late 2008 to discuss concept of a municipal forum.
- » Invited participants included:
 - » Provincial municipal associations (e.g. AMO and affiliates, UMNBA, CNBA, SUMA, SARM)
 - » National municipal association (FCM)
 - » Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC)



- » Unanimous support for creation of a Municipal Forum
- » The Municipal Forum brings together municipal associations, and range of experience
- » The Municipal Forum created an opportunity for:
 - collaboration in shaping plans and processes,
 - to enquire and learn,
 - advise and guide NWMO on research to be undertaken to assist communities as they explore APM



Collectively the Forum :

- » Helped shape and guide the processes surrounding a multi-billion dollar national infrastructure project;
- » Contributed to the development of a research agenda to answer community questions and needs as they consider the site selection process;
- » Helped ensure municipal perspectives on engagement practices are identified;
- » Answered member questions and helped keep the membership informed;
- » Learned about issues related to the long-term management of used nuclear fuel and siting a deep geological repository;
- » Provided suggestions and comments to NWMO on municipal issues/concerns;
- » Provided guidance to NWMO on effective communication practices with municipalities;
- » Are involved in the development of international 'best practices' for engagement, communication and research related to the long-term management of used nuclear fuel and siting.

Contributions of the Municipal Forum



Municipal Forum agendas have included:

- » Identifying issues likely to surface during development of site selection process
- » Who should be involved in the process for selecting a site?
- » Comments on draft site selection process
- » Research on socio-economic impacts
- » Factors to consider in developing a transportation work plan
- » Legal questions and issues
- » Communicating the site selection process
- » Materials to support communities
- » Comments on NWMO Implementation Plan
- » Process for communities undertaking visioning exercises
- » FCM Conference Ambassadors
- » Issues and factors influencing regional engagement



- » Municipal Associations
 - » Federations of municipalities
 - » Specific interests and issues, e.g. ROMA, FONOM
 - » Annual conferences and trade shows
- » Forum members
 - » Represent municipal associations
 - » Also members of a community, service organizations, municipal politicians
 - » Close relationships with members - communities
- » Established relationships with upper levels of government
- » Information sharing
- » Credible and established



Sustained Municipal Engagement



Engagement at the municipal level includes:

- Briefings upon request, specialized dialogue sessions, and regular mailings of key documents;
- Municipal association conferences and trade shows including presentations, executive board briefings;
- Communities in the learn more process may receive information stands and kiosks, open houses





- » APM will be sited in a willing and informed host community;
- » Clear emphasis on community engagement in all stages;
- » Municipal Forum - a non-threatening, environment that allows the local community perspective to be discussed while helping guide a research agenda yielding tools to assist communities;
- » Relationships with associations encourage valuable communication with municipal members and communities, and learning opportunities;
- » Engagement and relationship management with communities is ongoing and constantly evolving



Questions

Peter Simmons, MPA, MBA

Director, Municipal and Community Engagement

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

psimmons@nwmo.ca

647-259-3050