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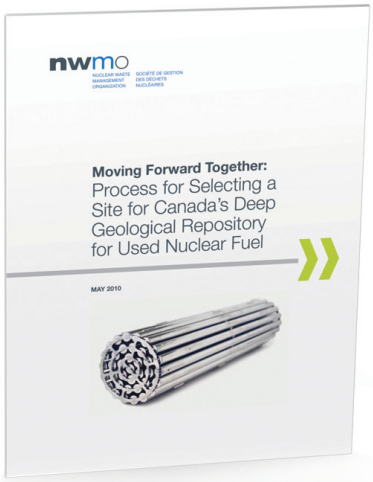
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nwmo news

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

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Initiation of the Site Selection Process



Over the past two years, the NWMO has worked collaboratively with interested organizations and individuals to design a fair and appropriate process. The process will guide us in identifying an informed and willing community to host the deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel. In May 2010, the site selection process was finalized, and we are now beginning to implement this community-driven process to proceed with Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The plan involves the development of a large infrastructure project in an informed and willing host community. The plan calls for used nuclear fuel to be contained and isolated in a deep geological repository in a suitable rock formation. All aspects of the project, including the transportation of used fuel from the interim storage facilities to the repository, will be highly regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission during the entire life cycle of the facility – from site preparation to construction, operation and decommissioning. The proposed project will meet strict regulatory criteria to protect the health, safety and security of Canadians as well as the environment, and respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The multi-billion-dollar project will also involve the creation of a centre of expertise for technical, environmental and community studies. It will become a hub for national and international scientific collaboration, and it will generate thousands of jobs in a host region and hundreds of jobs in a host community for many decades, regardless of where it is located. It will be implemented through a long-term partnership involving the community, the larger region in which it is located and the NWMO in a way that fosters the long-term well-being of the community. Dedicated funding for the project is already in place.

The NWMO is providing an opportunity for interested individuals, organizations and communities to learn more about Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel, the activities of the NWMO, and the process it will use to select an informed and willing community to host this project. Communities that express interest in learning more are not obliged to participate in the site selection process. The site ultimately selected for the project must meet a robust set of technical safety requirements.

To learn more about this important initiative, please visit our new website dedicated to the site selection process at www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess.

NWMO President Receives Ian McRae Award

NWMO President Ken Nash received the Ian McRae Award of Merit from the Canadian Nuclear Society (CNS) and Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) on May 26, 2010, at the CNS/CNA Honours and Awards ceremony in Montreal, Quebec, for his substantive contributions to the general advancement of nuclear energy in Canada.

Engagement Activities at the Municipal Level

Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel, called Adaptive Phased Management (APM), will be implemented in an informed and willing host community. Understanding the local perspective is critical for the NWMO as we design and refine our plans and processes. 2010 has been busy through our continued work with the Municipal Forum, municipal associations, the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) and communities requesting early information and briefings through the NWMO's *Learn More Program*.

Last year with the co-operation of senior leaders from municipal associations across the nuclear provinces and the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the NWMO established a Municipal Forum. With their collective municipal experience and understanding of local, rural and urban issues, the Forum members provide valuable insights into communicating and working with municipalities. The Forum is also an effective link to municipal associations and their membership, which includes hundreds of large and small municipal entities.

During a meeting in March 2010, members of the Municipal Forum were provided with an update on the status of collaborative research projects underway, reviewed communication products and plans related to the initiation of the site selection process, discussed municipal-specific legal questions, and received an overview of the NWMO's aboriginal engagement program. In addition, representatives from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission joined the meeting to provide Forum members with an understanding of the regulatory framework in Canada as it relates to the APM project. The Municipal Forum met again on July 21, 2010, to discuss recent NWMO and Forum Member Associations activities, to provide feedback on a new exhibit that the NWMO developed, and to comment on regional engagement and the development of materials for communities.

The NWMO continues to strengthen relations with the municipal leadership from Canada's nuclear communities, who together form the CANHC. As these communities will be directly impacted by APM and the transportation of used fuel from the existing nuclear facilities within their municipal borders to the eventual host site, the NWMO has committed to keeping this group well-informed of our work progress.



Andre Vorauer, NWMO Senior Technical Specialist, discusses the organization's work and Adaptive Phased Management (APM) project with municipal officials at the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference held in April in Marathon, Ontario.



NWMO's Peter Simmons (Director of Municipal and Community Engagement) on the right, Jo-Ann Facella (Director of Social Research and Dialogue) and Ben Belfadhel (Director of Used Fuel Repository Geoscience) give a presentation on Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel and the recently published site selection process, during the Industry Exchange Session at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference held in May in Toronto, Ontario.

The NWMO's participation at the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) annual conference in Regina, Saskatchewan, at the end of January marked the beginning of a very intensive municipal conference schedule for 2010. Since that time, the NWMO has attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) annual conference, FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference, the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) conference, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) conference, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) conference, the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) annual conference and the FCM annual conference. Through participation at these events, we are able to discuss APM with municipal officials in person, answer questions and build a general awareness of the organization. The NWMO will continue to participate in a variety of upcoming municipal conferences.

Advancing Technical R&D

The NWMO continues to further international co-operation on research and development and participated in a number of meetings in Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, France and Germany since the beginning of the year.

NWMO technical staff attended the Greenland Analogue Project Steering Committee Meeting in Finland. It is an international project to advance understanding of processes associated with glaciations and their impact on the long-term performance of a deep geological repository.

The NWMO is also involved in Switzerland's Mont Terri Project, which aims at developing and demonstrating repository technology and investigating geoscientific features and characteristics in sedimentary rock.

The Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company, SKB, has selected its final site for a deep geological repository and is preparing its final designs and safety assessments for licence application and environmental assessment. The NWMO participated in an SKB International Contract Workshop on Used Fuel Container and Used Fuel Packaging Plant Design and Cost Estimate Update, as well as SKB's annual Äspö Technical Evaluation Forum, International Joint Committee Meeting and Safety Assessment Meeting.

The Nuclear Energy Agency held several meetings in which the NWMO took part, namely the Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC) Core Group Meeting, the IGSC Workshop on Methods for Safety Assessment, and the Thermodynamic Data and Sorption Meeting.

We also attended the 4th International Meeting on Clays in Natural and Engineered Barriers for Radioactive Waste Confinement, as well as the International Shaft Seal Monitoring Project Meeting.

NWMO's technical team continues to provide support to the organization's broad engagement activities, including several municipal conferences, government briefings, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge workshops and presentations at universities.

In May 2010, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission agreed with the NWMO on the review process for a pre-licensing review of used fuel repository conceptual design and postclosure safety in crystalline and sedimentary rock types.

Peer review also remains an important component of the NWMO's commitment to transparency. The 2009 Report of the Independent Technical Review Group, as well as the NWMO's response and action plan for 2010, are available on the NWMO website.

Geoscience Seminar

On June 8-9, 2010, the NWMO was proud to hold the 8th Annual Geoscience Seminar at the Hockley Valley Resort outside Orangeville, Ontario. This year, the event brought together over 50 participants from universities, specialist consulting companies, government organizations and the NWMO to discuss research related to the NWMO's Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Geoscience technical program. Over the course of the seminar, attendees delivered presentations on current research initiatives, which include developing plans and methods for site characterization and evaluation, as well as initiatives to further the understanding of factors affecting geosphere stability and its long-term performance.

YMCA Strong Kids Campaign

NWMO staff joined hundreds other runners and walkers at the 30th Annual YMCA Relay for Strong Kids. The relay took place on May 26, 2010, at the Exhibition Place in Toronto, Ontario. The money raised for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign will help more children and families gain access to programs and services offered by the YMCA that are geared towards fostering the well-being of the community.



Launch of Micro-Site to Support Site Selection Process

In May 2010, the NWMO launched a new online micro-site dedicated to the Site Selection Process. The website bears a fresh new look, featuring an interactive component and a simple navigation.

Through this website, you will be able to access different parts of the Site Selection Process based on what captures your interest the most. The Site Selection Process document is available in its entirety, and we have also provided an overview of the process, as well as featured various subjects such as the steps in the process and guiding principles. The website offers various other materials to support the process:

- Backgrounders on different topics
- An animation video that explains the nuclear fuel cycle and the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project
- A video on the transportation of used nuclear fuel
- A preliminary assessment of economic benefits
- What we heard during the 2009 engagement activities
- Frequently asked questions on the NWMO, APM and Site Selection Process
- *Learn More Program*



Learn More Program

Steps 1 and 2 of the Site Selection Process are an invitation to learn more about Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The NWMO makes available resources (information and funding) to support participation in the siting process. These resources, focused on participation in the early steps of the process, include information and briefings to interested individuals, organizations and communities upon request. Resources also include funding for potentially interested communities to:

- Hire independent expert advice;
- Visit an interim waste storage facility;
- Develop and/or refine a long-term sustainability vision for the community; and
- Engage their citizens in learning more.

The full program is described in *Invitation to Learn More – Focus on Early Steps*, available on the NWMO micro-site.

The NWMO also encourages any community, interested individual or group to contribute to shaping the knowledge platform on which this project will proceed. Program offerings in this area are outlined in our *Research Support Program*.

Please visit our new micro-site at www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess **for more information.**

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NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

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