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Update on Siting Activities

How is the NWMO building awareness of Adaptive Phased Management and the site selection process?

Over the past several months, the NWMO has made presentations and staffed a booth or exhibit at a number of conferences and meetings. These include the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Assembly of First Nations, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, and Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Additional conferences are planned in the coming months. This is part of Step 1 of the site selection process, and the NWMO will continue with these outreach activities throughout the entire process.

What does Step 2 involve?

Representatives of communities learn more about Adaptive Phased Management, the NWMO and the site selection process through a series of briefings and visit to an interim storage facility for used nuclear fuel. The NWMO also takes a 'quick look' at publicly available information about the geology of the area, as well as a number of other factors, to determine if the community may have a potentially suitable site for this project. If this initial screening suggests the community may have a suitable site, it is up to the community to decide whether it would like to learn more and continue in the process. Resources are available to support participation in this step.

What is community visioning?

Before beginning to think about this project, the NWMO encourages communities that may be interested to consider their long-term vision for their community. With such a vision, it may be easier for a community to begin to discuss whether this project might benefit the community and whether the community wants to learn more. What might a community visioning process involve? Read our new backgrounder on Community Sustainability Visioning that provides a short description of what a visioning process may involve and what resources are available, on the NWMO website.

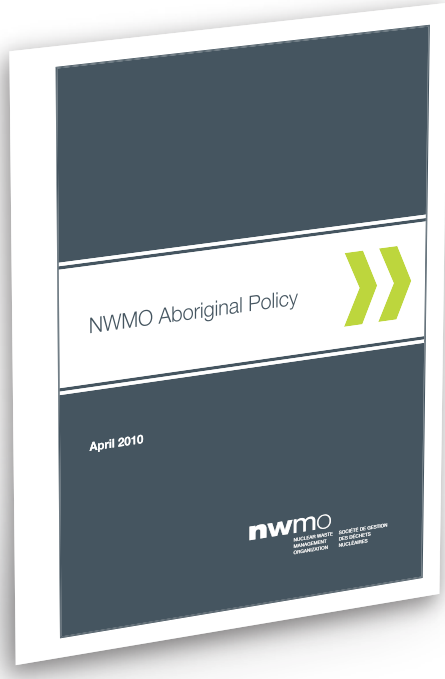
Where can I learn about communities involved in the site selection process?

The NWMO will publish the results of initial screenings for communities whose interest continues beyond Step 2 – that is for communities that enter Step 3 of the site selection process. No communities are yet at this step. Check the NWMO siting website at www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess under "What's New" for screening results once available.

Some quick facts about initial screening:

- It provides an early indication to a community whether it has the potential to meet the geological requirements of the project.
- It is completed within 2 to 3 months.
- It involves the review of publicly available material only. No actual testing of sites at this stage.

NWMO Aboriginal Policy



In June 2007, the NWMO was given responsibility for implementing Adaptive Phased Management (APM), Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The interests and concerns of Aboriginal peoples have been an integral part of our considerations throughout our work. The NWMO is committed to the active and meaningful participation of Aboriginal peoples in our work. This began as we conducted the study on options for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel and has continued through development of all our implementation plans for Adaptive Phased Management.

It is an important component of the NWMO's work to understand the nature of any impacts on Aboriginal rights, treaties and land claims resulting from the implementation of Adaptive Phased Management, and how Aboriginal peoples should be accommodated as a result of any impacts.

Aboriginal and western world views and knowledge systems are each unique. However, the interweaving of these two world views in the implementation of Adaptive Phased Management can bring opportunities to strengthen our work as we learn from one another.

Through 2009 and 2010, with the assistance of the Elders Forum and Niigani, and ongoing advice from national, provincial and regional Aboriginal organizations, we developed an Aboriginal Policy to guide our work.

For more information on the NWMO's Aboriginal Policy, please visit www.nwmo.ca/aboriginalpolicy.

Principles

The development of this Policy is guided by the following 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 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 Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and recognizes the value that Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge can bring to decision-making processes.

Advancing Technical R&D

Technical research and development forms an essential part of the NWMO's work. The NWMO will refine and further develop the generic designs and safety cases for a repository for used nuclear fuel in both crystalline and sedimentary rock formations, and conduct technical research and development to ensure continuous improvement, consistent with best practices.

On the international scene, the NWMO participated in the BIOPROTA Annual Meeting, held in May 2010, in Stockholm, Sweden. BIOPROTA provides an avenue for national authorities and agencies to assess the long-term impact of radiological releases in the environment.

NWMO staff also attended the Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management (PSAM) Meeting on reliability analysis and performance optimization of complex systems, held in June 2010, in Seattle, USA.

Other participation included the EDRAM (International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials) Meeting, held in October 2010, in Forsmark, Sweden; and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC) Annual Meeting, held in October 2010, in Paris, France.

Our Swedish counterpart, SKB, is currently preparing documentation for submission of its licence application and environmental assessment in March 2011.

SNC-Lavalin is in the process of updating the Adaptive Phased Management conceptual design and cost estimate for a used fuel transportation system and a used fuel deep geological repository in crystalline rock and in sedimentary rock.

The NWMO continues to keep the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) abreast of development in the Adaptive Phased Management project and provided an annual update to CNSC staff in Ottawa in November 2010.

The Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG), established by the NWMO to comment on our technical program, presented its 2010 Report to the NWMO Board of Directors in December 2010. The recommendations made by the ITRG to the Adaptive Phased Management technical program will be considered for our five-year business planning period.

Women in Nuclear Canada Annual Conference

The NWMO was pleased to participate in the 7th Annual Women in Nuclear Canada (WiN-Canada) Conference from September 30 to October 1, 2010, in Ajax, Ontario. WiN-Canada is an association of women working professionally in various fields of nuclear energy and radiation applications.

The conference brought together about 200 WiN-Canada members from organizations such as Ontario Power Generation, Bruce Power, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Canadian Nuclear Association, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Society of Energy Professionals and NWMO.

The conference included a series of panel discussions and presentations focusing on the nuclear industry, the regulatory process and careers in the nuclear industry, as well as a keynote presentation by Dr. Roberta Bondar.

Further information is available on the WiN-Canada website at www.wincanada.org.



NWMO Geoscientists Sarah Hirschorn and Jennifer McKelvie were on hand to talk about geoscience careers at the NWMO

New NWMO Exhibit

The NWMO has developed a mobile exhibit designed to help build awareness and understanding among interested individuals and organizations of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The exhibit is designed to complement existing NWMO communications materials, and incorporates visual and interactive features including computer touch screens, physical objects, videos, graphic panels and 3D virtual models.

Working with a team of educators and exhibit designers led by Science North, five modules have been developed to date to begin to answer questions about:

- Who is the NWMO, and what is its mandate?
- What is used nuclear fuel and Canada's plan for its safe, long-term management?
- What is radiation, and how can it be managed?
- What is the multi-barrier system that will be used to contain and isolate used nuclear fuel, and how will it work?
- What would the deep geological repository look like?

In addition to the exhibit, smaller information kiosks and literature stands have also been developed for placement in various locations throughout communities that have expressed an interest in learning more about this project





The NWMO will continue to evolve its selection of communications resources to help build awareness and understanding of the project to Canadians in an accessible and engaging manner.

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NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

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