nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

the nwmo news

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What's Inside...

NWMO APPOINTMENTS
PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION
.....p.01/02

MINISTER'S STATEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2005
.....p.02

ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL
ADVISORY APPOINTMENTS
.....p.02

ISSUES TABLES:
COMMUNICATIONS
NATURAL RESOURCES
.....p.03

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
COMMON INTERESTS
.....p.04

FISHERMEN'S DAY
NWMO RETURNS
.....p.04

NWMO APPOINTMENTS

PREPARING FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The NWMO Board of Directors is taking steps to prepare for the next phase of the organization's work. Dr. Gary Kugler, recently retired after a 34 year distinguished career in the nuclear industry, has been named Chairman of the Board. He replaces Ken Nash who becomes the new NWMO president and CEO. Former President Elizabeth Dowdeswell has agreed to continue to support the Board as a Special Advisor.

The recently announced changes are part of a broader effort to equip the NWMO with the resources and oversight that will be required to implement the long-term nuclear waste management approach selected by the Government of Canada.

"A priority task of my new position will be to continue the review already underway of future NWMO governance," said Gary Kugler. "Among other things we must consider Board membership and composition with a view to having a broader range of perspectives than industry executives," he added.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, having fulfilled her mandate to lead the study of management approaches for used nuclear fuel, will lead the development of a collaborative process for siting any facilities required by a government decision consistent with NWMO's visions and intentions set out in the Final Study.

"Elizabeth Dowdeswell and her staff have laid a firm foundation for the NWMO to move forward competently and confidently with implementation," said Gary Kugler. "The Board commends her leadership through the first phase and appreciates her decision to provide valuable advice and support in the implementation phase."

continued on page 2...



Gary Kugler
Review Governance



Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Firm Foundation



Ken Nash
Continue Outreach

Keep up to date @

www.NWMO.ca

The work continues.

ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL
ADVISORY APPOINTMENTS

Former NWMO president Elizabeth Dowdeswell has no shortage of work on her plate. In addition to being a Special Advisor to the NWMO Board of Directors she has agreed to accept two other significant advisory appointments.

Ms. Dowdeswell will sit on the Ontario Research Fund Advisory Board and she will chair the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Council of Canadian Academies.

The Ontario Research Fund reviews proposals from Ontario research institutions and makes funding recommendations to the Minister of Research and Innovation, Premier Dalton McGuinty. The $550 million fund was set up by the province to support research and help transform knowledge into products and services. In addition to assessing proposals, the board provides strategic advice to the Premier on the research agenda to keep Ontario competitive.

The Council of Canadian Academies provides independent, expert assessment of the science underlying pressing issues and matter of public interest. It also acts as a unified voice for Canadians on behalf of the sciences in international inter-academy fora.

In her role as Special Advisor to the NWMO Board of Directors, Ms. Dowdeswell will lead the development of a collaborative process for siting long-term nuclear waste management facilities. ■

...continued from page 1

NWMO APPOINTMENTS

Ken Nash, a founding director of the NWMO and most recently its Board Chair, is also a Senior Vice President at Ontario Power Generation where he heads the Nuclear Waste Management Division. "I am committed to ensuring that the NWMO continues with its social, ethical and outreach program while also integrating the substantial expertise in technical R & D, finance, and international collaboration on waste management technologies developed by the nuclear industry over the last 20 years," said Mr. Nash.

The appointments build on what the NWMO has already established and help to ensure that the funding, expertise and governance frameworks are in place to successfully implement a long-term used nuclear fuel management plan for Canada. ■

MINISTER'S STATEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, has published his statement on *Dialogue to Decision*, the 2005 NWMO Annual Report.

Minister Lunn acknowledged activities carried out by the NWMO in 2005 and highlighted in the Annual Report. In particular he noted the financial contributions totalling $880 million to trust funds made to date by Ontario Power Generation, New Brunswick Power, Hydro-Québec and AECL.

"In the coming years, the monies in these funds will continue to accumulate, increasing public confidence that those who own the waste will assume all of their financial responsibilities," said Mr. Lunn. In accord with the 1996 Radioactive Waste Policy Framework, "the Government of Canada will ensure that the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste is carried out in a safe, environmentally sound, comprehensive, cost-effective and integrated manner in the best interest of Canadians," he added.



Hon. Gary Lunn
Public Confidence

The Minister is required by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* to issue a public statement within 90 days after receiving the Annual Report. The document was submitted to the Minister and simultaneously made public in March. ■

The Work Continues

The NWMO is in a period of transition as the Government of Canada reviews the Final Study and formulates its response. Ongoing activities during the transition are reported on our website. Visit often.

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Visit **www.nwmo.ca**

ISSUES TABLES:

COMMUNICATIONS

As the NWMO awaits a decision on the future management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, the organization continues to undertake activities that will provide necessary background information regardless of what choice the government makes.

Two recent Issues Tables were convened to explore "Developing Effective Two-Way Communication between Canada's Aboriginal Community and the NWMO" and "Innovative Approaches to Natural Resource Management." Both drew on the experiences of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal specialists with expertise in the subject matter.

Participants in the Communications table stressed the importance of showing respect for and having knowledge of people in Aboriginal communities, and an understanding of their history, culture and organizational structures. They emphasized the need for Aboriginal communities to direct their own communication processes.

"Communication must be established in the context of long-term relationships," said participants. "Allowing time for communities to build capacity is important."

"Sometimes you have to slow down to go faster," added one. ■

NATURAL RESOURCES

There has been a significant evolution of Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management issues in Canada and elsewhere in recent years. To learn more about evolving expectations the NWMO must address in the next phase of its work, a group of knowledgeable and experienced Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was convened in Winnipeg.

Participants in the Issue Table discussed a broad spectrum of natural resource management projects with Aboriginal involvement that the NWMO can learn from. Over the two day session, case studies they considered ranged from pulp and paper projects in New Brunswick, to land use planning and mineral exploration activities in Northern Ontario.

Participants emphasized the importance of having Aboriginal communities involved early on in a self-directed process leading to decision-making. A "bottom-up" approach which ensures the community is engaged in the design of the process, and has some control over it, works best towards building a lasting economy in Aboriginal communities, said participants. Direct participation in issues like safety, environment, social concerns and dispute resolution is important and becoming more common, they advised.

Reports from the Communications and the Natural Resource Management issue tables will serve as background to a planned Elder's Forum later in the year. Both reports are available on the NWMO website at: www.nwmo.ca/issuetables ■



Resource Management
Direct Participation

the nwmo news

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FISHERMEN'S DAY
NWMO RETURNS

The NWMO returned to Dipper Harbour, New Brunswick this summer for the sixth annual Fundy Fishermen's Day.

More than 1000 people, many of them close neighbours to NB Power's nearby Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station, others from close by Saint John or as far away as Ontario and the United States, attended the event. As always, the big attractions were the dinghy and lobster crate races, a scallop shucking contest, a flea market and children's events.

People visiting the NWMO booth reviewed posters and were provided summaries updating them on the NWMO study and the Adaptive Phased Management recommendation proposed to the Minister of Natural Resources last November. ■



Dipper Harbour, N.B.
NWMO Booth

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
COMMON INTERESTS

As part of its commitment to maintain a watching brief on research into nuclear waste management, the NWMO participates regularly in international meetings. Technical Advisor Sean Russell was part of the Canadian delegation at a recent bilateral workshop on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management Technologies at the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow.



Sean Russell
Potential Collaboration

The event was sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the International Science and Technology Center which seeks to re-direct former nuclear weapons scientists towards sustainable peaceful employment. In addition to the NWMO, the Canadian team included representatives from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Hydro Quebec and several nuclear consulting companies.

Mr. Russell provided the forum with an update on Canada's progress in nuclear waste management research. Other attendees gave presentations on radioactive waste management work programs, issues and technologies in their respective organizations including an existing collaborative project on dismantling Russian nuclear submarines.

"The workshop helped raise the level of awareness of radioactive waste management issues in both regions of the globe," said Mr. Russell. "We were able to identify several possible areas of common interest for potential collaboration," he added.

Other recent international meetings where the NWMO has discussed its study and recommendation include: the 2006 International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference forum for the discussion of the scientific, technical, social and regulatory aspects for the "back-end" of the nuclear fuel cycle, and the annual VALues in Decisions On Risk (VALDOR) symposium which examines theory as well as practical case studies. ■

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