nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

nwmo news

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BOARD APPOINTMENTS

New Perspectives

The NWMO Board of Directors has been expanded to include members who are not associated with the nuclear industry. Deborah Poff and Ron Jamieson accepted appointments effective March 1, 2007.

"The member corporations have taken very seriously public expressions of concern about the limitations of a Board composed entirely of representatives of nuclear waste owners," said NWMO Board Chairman, Dr. Gary Kugler. "These appointments bring a greater range of experience, skill and perspective to the Board as we provide oversight and strategic direction to the NWMO in preparation for its implementation mandate."



Deborah Poff

Ms. Poff is a Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia. She is also the founder and editor of the Journal of Business Ethics, Teaching Business Ethics and the Journal of Academic Ethics. She has published numerous articles in the area of applied ethics and is the current editor of Business Ethics in Canada.

Prior to his retirement in late 2005, **Mr. Jamieson** served as Senior Vice-President, Aboriginal Banking, with BMO Bank of Montreal. He has been active in economic development initiatives for Aboriginal communities across Canada. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Power Authority and served as Chairman, President and CEO of the Ontario Energy Corporation.



Ron Jamieson

Both appointments were made by Ontario Power Generation, which is entitled through the NWMO Membership Agreement to assign up to seven directors to the board. After considering skills and competencies needed for the Board as the organization prepares to implement a management approach, OPG decided to focus its search on bringing both Aboriginal perspectives and ethical or social sciences expertise to the Board. Consideration was also given to addressing the gender imbalance of the Board.

An independent external search firm was engaged to identify candidates. Ms. Poff

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BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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and Mr. Jamieson were selected from among potential candidates presented by the firm and short-listed for interviews. NWMO Chairman, Gary Kugler, recommended the two candidates to OPG based on their experience, interest, and suitability to the search criteria. Appointment letters were issued by OPG President James Hankinson, and took effect on March 1, 2007.

The Board also recently welcomed two other new members.

Josée Pilon, a Special Projects Manager with Hydro-Québec, succeeds Michel Rhéaume who resigned effective December 31, 2006. An MBA graduate of Laval University, Ms. Pilon is member of the steering committee on the evaluation project for the rehabilitation of Gentilly-2.

And, **C. Ian Ross** was appointed to succeed Fred Long who was a founding director of the organization. Retired from a career at the University of Western Ontario and as a senior executive in the private sector, Mr. Ross is a director of several corporations, including Ontario Power Generation.



Josée Pilon



C. Ian Ross

The NWMO Board of Directors now totals seven members. In addition to the four new members and Dr. Kugler, Ken Nash and Laurie Comeau have retained their memberships. Biographical notes on each of the members can be reviewed at: www.nwmo.ca/board.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Looking Ahead



The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) published and distributed its Annual Report for 2006 on March 21, 2007. It was tabled in both Houses of Parliament by the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, on April 16.

Looking Ahead – Planning for the Future outlines a year of preparatory work undertaken by the NWMO as it transitions from a study organization to a sustainable agency responsible for all aspects of managing Canada's used nuclear fuel over the long term.

"Maintaining and building on relationships we developed over the three year study phase is a vital component of our work, said NWMO President Ken Nash. "Ongoing collaboration will be critical to successful implementation of the long-term management strategy the Government selects for used nuclear fuel."

Looking Ahead
Planning for the Future

Highlights of the NWMO's 2006 work year included: a review of what was learned during its three year study; examination of best engagement practices domestically and elsewhere; a broadening of the organization's social and technical research capacity; and strengthening the NWMO governance foundation to ensure the necessary resources, capabilities and policies are in place for implementation.

The Annual Report also presents NWMO's audited financial statements for 2006, and confirms contributions made by the used fuel producers to dedicated trust funds for long-term nuclear waste management. (*see Trust Funds p. 3*)

"We look forward to the next phase of our work," said NWMO Board Chairman Dr. Gary Kugler. "With Government direction, the NWMO is well-prepared to work collaboratively with citizens so that Canada can continue its legacy of safely and responsibly managing used fuel by beginning the process for its long-term stewardship."

The NWMO was established by Canada's nuclear electricity generators in 2002 to conduct a study and recommend to the Government of Canada an approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. After engaging more than 18,000 Canadians over three years, the organization proposed an Adaptive Phased Management approach. Following the Government's decision on a strategy, the NWMO will implement it.

The NWMO Annual Report is made public simultaneous with its submission to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. It is available for review on the NWMO website: www.nwmo.ca

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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NIIGĀNI

Toward a Better Understanding"

Niigāni means "out in front" or "leading the way." It is also the name adopted by the NWMO Aboriginal Working Group which has begun meeting and considering ways of strengthening relationships between the NWMO and Aboriginal people. The group was proposed by participants at the 2006 Elder's Forum and is composed of Elders and youth chosen from among the members of the Elders' Forum. They will work collaboratively with the NWMO to develop cross-cultural thinking between the organization and Aboriginal people, and to bring Aboriginal wisdom and knowledge to the NWMO, building a foundation for future work.

At sessions in January and April, Niigāni developed as their Mission Statement, "to create a process for the long-term management of nuclear waste that allows for Aboriginal and western world views." Members also adopted a logo depicting a flock of geese in flight. An Aboriginal artist will be commissioned to design it.

"The word "Niigāni" represents the wish of the Elders to lead the way to work collaboratively with the NWMO incorporating both Aboriginal and western world views in the long-term management of used nuclear fuel," said Gordon Williams, chair of the Working Group. "Our logo, which depicts six geese on the left and six geese on the right flying in formation behind a lead goose, represents all people working together to find solutions," he added.

In addition to strengthening NWMO and Aboriginal peoples' preparedness for future engagement in the implementation of a long term nuclear waste management approach, Niigāni seeks to: develop cross-cultural thinking between the NWMO and Aboriginal communities; enhance NWMO understanding of the goals and aspirations of Aboriginal peoples; provide advice on interweaving Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into NWMO thinking and processes; and advise the NWMO on how to communicate and engage with Aboriginal people at national, regional and community levels.

One of the first projects undertaken by Niigāni has been to advise the NWMO on creation of a summer work program in which youths will visit Aboriginal communities to learn first hand from Elders, community members, and young people how Aboriginal communities can best be engaged in NWMO work. The program will develop and pilot a model and report on how it might be effectively implemented.

Niigāni is non-political; its members speak as individuals. It will continue to function for as long as its advice benefits the work of the NWMO and of the members.

NWMO WORK PROGRAM – 2007

The NWMO work program for 2007 is organized in several key areas. Our priorities include:

- designing a well-resourced and integrated organization, committed to a common vision of implementation with strategic oversight by a strong Board of Directors and guidance by an active Advisory Council;
- continuing to engage and build relationships with a range of stakeholders and potentially affected communities of interest.
- expanding the base of technical research and development required to support the further design and guide implementation of the selected management approach;
- expanding the base of social research to understand the various communities of interest, how best to engage them, and the range of social and ethical issues to be addressed; and
- initiating, following a Government decision, the collaborative design of a siting process and a citizen engagement program to support it.

TRUST FUNDS

CANADA'S NUCLEAR OPERATORS have made their 2006 contributions to trust funds earmarked for long-term used fuel management. Deposits, which now total $990 million, are made annually by Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec, NB Power and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. Money in the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* (NFWA) trusts can only be used by the NWMO after a construction or operating licence has been issued to implement the long-term waste management approach which will be decided upon by the Government of Canada. Audited financial statements of the funds are posted on the NWMO website when they are provided by the financial institutions annually. They can be reviewed at: www.nwmo.ca/trustfunds.

In its first Annual Report following a government decision, the NWMO will propose a funding formula for the selected approach for approval by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada. As of December 31, 2006, the total value of the waste owners' NFWA used fuel trusts and separate segregated funds they have for used fuel management was $3.3 billion.

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TECHNICAL RESEARCH

International Collaboration

On January 1, 2007 the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) assumed responsibility for directing and managing all aspects of the established technical research program on used nuclear fuel in Canada.

An important feature of the organization's approach is interacting with national radioactive waste management programs in other countries. The NWMO has expanded its international collaboration with the signing this year of Agreements for Cooperation with Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB, the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB), and Posiva, the Finnish radioactive waste management company.

"These Agreements facilitate the exchange information and participation in joint research and development activities of mutual interest," said NWMO technical advisor, Sean Russell. "Both Sweden and Finland are considering approaches for long-term management of used nuclear fuel that are very similar to the NWMO's recommended approach for Canada, and their waste management programs are more advanced with respect to technology development and the siting and approvals process."

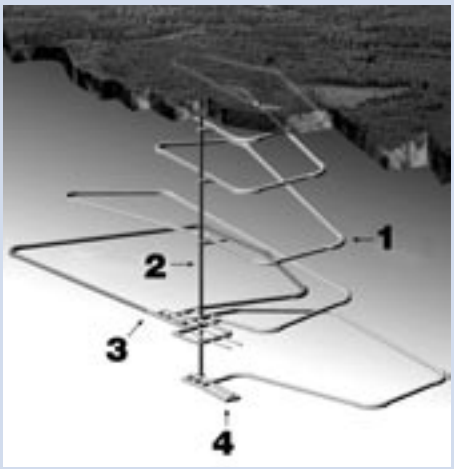
Sweden is operating the international Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory for underground research, development and demonstration of repository technology and is completing their site investigation activities. The country expects to complete a step-wise approach to select a site for a deep geological repository in the next few years.

In Finland, a willing host community and final site have been identified, and construction of the ONKALO underground characterization facility is well underway. Like the NWMO's proposed approach, both Sweden and Finland are pursuing waste management strategies which include monitoring and the potential for retrieving used nuclear fuel. Both countries plan to have their deep geological repositories operating by 2020.

The cooperation agreements between the NWMO and the two countries cover all fields of radioactive waste management study ranging from management options and site investigation and characterization, to public communication and involvement and environmental impact assessment.



Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory, Prototype Experiment



ONKALO – Finnish Underground Characterization Facility

1. Access Tunnel
2. Ventilation Shaft
3. Characterization Tunnel, Main Investigation Level
4. Lower Investigation Level

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