Volume 6, Issue 1
May 2008

NEWS

nwmo

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The work continues...

Engagement Activities: What we heard

Following the Government of Canada's decision to accept the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management (APM) for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel, the NWMO began a process of reconnecting with people and organizations who had been involved in its study, and meeting with others who may have an interest in, or be potentially affected by, the implementation of APM.

"We know that the successful long-term management of nuclear fuel waste is dependent on the NWMO moving forward together, collaboratively with Canadians," said NWMO President **Ken Nash**.

Dialogue and public engagement efforts are being conducted iteratively, through a series of stages. Initial work began in Summer 2007, and continued through to the end of March 2008. The meetings were focused in the four nuclear provinces, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan. Over this period the NWMO:

- began to reintroduce the organization and its Vision, Mission and Values, to interested Canadians;
- reviewed the government decision and Adaptive Phased Management with citizens to increase awareness and understanding; and
- invited comment on our draft strategic objectives, and initial direction for the Implementation Plan.

Principle activities during this first stage included individual briefings, group presentations, meetings of several Citizens' Panels, and outreach through the NWMO website. Through these activities we heard a clear message of confidence in our organization and its processes. We were advised to 'stay the course' in terms of our values and commitment to engagement, openness and transparency. Enhancements, such as ensuring that our messages are clearly understood by multiple perspectives were suggested. And we were advised to increase the involvement of youth in our activities.

There was a consistent call for the NWMO to continue its work and to move forward to the next phase of engagement. Many organizations confirmed their interest in working with us, with some expressing interest in developing protocol agreements to formalize collaboration and communications.

There was considerable discussion of the changing energy landscape in Canada, including the possibility of new nuclear reactors being built. Most people who spoke about energy policy suggested that the NWMO incorporate the implications of new build into our plans for implementing APM.

For a complete report on our early engagement activities please visit our website: www.nwmo.ca/engagementreports.

The NWMO considers the work completed to date to be only initial steps to reconnect and engage with citizens. Our efforts will build upon these early activities through subsequent work which is expected to include:

- Public review of a draft Implementation Plan (April-June 2008);
- Engagement to collaboratively develop the process for selecting a site (2008); and
- Dialogue to discuss and confirm a Siting Process Proposal (2009).

DRAFT Implementation Plan: Comment Sought

With its new mandate, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is making the transition from a study group to a sustainable implementing organization. The focus of our work over the past few months has been on drafting a five-year plan, based on seven draft strategic objectives (*see box*).

The draft plan, Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2008 to 2012 - DRAFT PLAN for Public Comment was developed taking into consideration advice and guidance the NWMO received from interested Canadians during our most recent phase of public engagement and is presented in draft form for the purpose of seeking review and comment. It outlines many of the key initiatives we intend to undertake in a coordinated and systematic way over the next five years.

The plan describes how we expect to move forward to build our organization, strengthen our governance structures and policies, continue to build on our solid foundation of technical and social research, design the process for deciding where to isolate and contain Canada's used nuclear fuel, and engage Canadians meaningfully in all of these activities.

The draft plan is a living document that will be regularly assessed, strengthened and redirected in the face of new information and in response to advances in technology and science, changes in societal values and the evolution of public policy.

People are invited to provide their views by sending a written submission, responding to a deliberative survey on the website or leaving a message on our toll-free telephone line.

For a copy of our draft Implementation Plan please visit our website: www.nwmo.ca/draftimplementationplan.

Strategic Objectives

- **Seek to build long-term relationships with interested Canadians and Aboriginal people and involve them in setting future directions.**
- **Advance technical and social research.**
- **Develop and refine a funding formula and trust fund deposit schedules that address financial surety and long-term program funding.**
- **Continually review, adjust and validate plans.**
- **Develop and maintain a governance structure to provide greater assurance, oversight and guidance.**
- **Build NWMO as an implementing organization, with a full range of capabilities**
- **Proceed with the collaborative design of a process for site selection.**

Annual Report 2007: Moving Forward Together

The 2007 NWMO Annual Report has been tabled in Parliament. Submitted to **Gary Lunn**, the Minister of Natural Resources, and made public on March 25, 2008 the document is the NWMO's first annual review of its activities since the Government selected Adaptive Phased Management as Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The report focuses on work accomplished to support each of the seven draft strategic objectives the organization has developed for public comment. It discusses our re-connection in 2007 with citizens and organizations who were engaged in the initial NWMO study and describes outreach to others who might be interested in participating as we move forward.

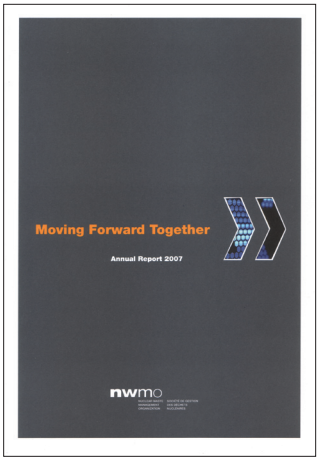
The NWMO began last year to build a sustainable implementing organization by strengthening its Board and Advisory Council and expanding its staff to include additional technical, social research, public engagement, legal and human resources expertise, including establishing an intern program. Staffing levels have increased to more than 30 full-time equivalents from the core complement of 12 who conducted the NWMO three-year study.

Advances incorporating the best Canadian and international knowledge were made in both social and technical research. More than 20 multi-year contracts previously held by Ontario Power Generation were transferred to the NWMO in 2007. During the same period more than 30 additional contracts were issued, including agreements with 11 different Canadian universities.

As the organization moves forward social research activity will focus on a broad range of implementation questions including: evolving approaches to dialogue, collaboration and dispute resolution; building capacity among dialogue participants; interweaving Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge with natural, social and scientific research, and; how to ensure the well-being of impacted communities.

"The task dimensions ahead of us are technical, social and ethical," said NWMO President **Ken Nash**. "We are enhancing our processes to draw on the best technical expertise in Canada and internationally, and we are developing our ability to benefit from the knowledge of specialists, the perspectives of citizens and the wisdom of Aboriginal people to address the social and ethical challenges," he added.

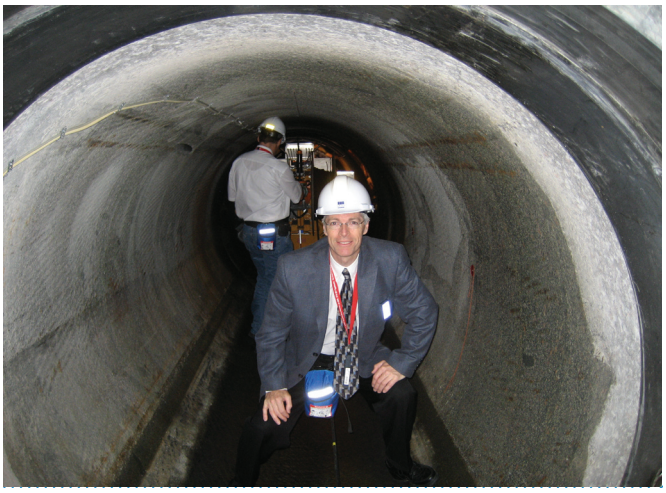
The NWMO also met an important requirement of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act in 2007 by developing a funding formula which is published in the Annual Report for approval by the Minister of Natural Resources. The proposal ensures that the necessary money will be available for the safe and secure long-term management of used nuclear fuel and that financial burdens will not be passed on to future generations.



Moving Forward Together

www.nwmo.ca

Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory, Sweden



International Co-operation: Research & Development

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization has developed a 5-year technical research & development program to support the implementation of Adaptive Phased Management and the collaborative design of a siting process. The work program encompasses used fuel storage and repository engineering, geosciences, and safety assessment.

An important component of the NWMO's approach to research is our interaction with national waste management organizations in other countries. The NWMO has co-operation agreements with SKB (Sweden), Posiva (Finland), Andra (France) and Nagra (Switzerland) to facilitate an exchange of information and to enable the NWMO to participate in joint research & development projects of mutual interest. These agreements cover all fields of long-term radioactive waste management study ranging from management approaches and site investigation and characterization, to engineering designs and public communication and involvement.

The NWMO has recently been accepted as a research partner at the Mont Terri (Switzerland) Underground Research Laboratory in sedimentary rock. Along with other organizations, the NWMO will be participating in several joint geoscience and repository engineering projects at Mont Terri. We are also continuing to participate in underground research and technology demonstration at the Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory (Sweden) as well as with SKB, Posiva, NASA and the Geologic Survey of Finland (GTK). The NWMO also supports research initiatives through Canada's membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA).

Transparency Policy: NWMO proposal

Sharing information and encouraging an exchange of perspectives is fundamental to the NWMO mandate to implement Canada's plan for the long-term management of used fuel from Canadian nuclear reactors.

As part of our Mission, Vision and Values statement we have made a commitment to be "open and transparent in our process, communications and decision-making, so that the approach is clear to all Canadians." To demonstrate our commitment, we have proposed a transparency policy and are inviting public comment on it.

The transparency policy proposal is to continue using our website to provide access to documents that are developed as we proceed with the task of finding a central site for the long-term management of Canada's nuclear fuel waste and to receive submissions on our work. Information will be published on a timely basis.

Among items to be made public are documents related to the NWMO work program including implementation plans, commissioned research reports, engagement and dialogue reports and public comments and submissions received through the website. The NWMO will continue to publish governing documents and corporate reports along with the minutes of its Board of Directors meetings and the discussion records of Advisory Council meetings.

In determining what will be published on the website, the NWMO will respect personal privacy, intellectual property rights and commercial confidentiality. We will not publish information that is legally privileged or protected for national security reasons. And, where consent is required for publication, we will not publish such information without that consent.

The full draft transparency policy is available both printed and on the NWMO website.

NWMO at CNA



CNA – Globe: New NWMO Booth

The NWMO has introduced a new trade show booth which will be showing up at conferences across the country. This spring the organization met with delegates to the Canadian Nuclear Association annual seminar in Ottawa and visitors to the Globe 2008 conference in Vancouver. Also on the calendar are appointments with the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Marlyn Cook, Rudyard Griffiths, Dougal McCreath



Appointments: New Expertise

Three new members have been recruited to the NWMO Advisory Council. **Dr. Marlyn Cook**, **Rudyard Griffiths** and **Dougal McCreath** accepted invitations to join the group effective January 1, 2008. Their appointments followed an assessment by the Board of Directors of the expertise and competencies required on the Council to support NWMO's early implementation years. The three bring with them expertise in the fields of geosciences, strategic communications and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.

Dr. Cook is a family physician with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Health in the Mohawk community of Akwesasne, Ontario. She is Cree and a member of the Grand Rapids First Nation in Northern Manitoba. Dr. Cook is known for her work blending Western and Traditional medicine, and has been involved with sharing the knowledge with medical students and doctors throughout Canada.

Rudyard Griffiths is the co-founder of the Dominion Institute, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of history and shared citizenship and the co-founder of the Salon Speakers Series. Recognized in 2006 as one of Canada's Top 40 under 40, Mr. Griffiths sits on a variety of not-for-profit boards and is a columnist and regular political commentator.

Dougal McCreath is a Professor of Civil and Mining Engineering at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. He has wide teaching, research and international consulting interests and has served on two Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency review panels dealing with nuclear-related issues.

Having completed their terms Helen Cooper and Gordon Cressy left the Council at the end of 2007. "I would like to thank both for the insightful advice and generous guidance they offered our organization during its formative years," said NWMO Board Chairman Dr. Gary Kugler.

The NWMO Board of Directors also has a new member. Pierre Charlebois was appointed effective February 22, 2008. He is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Ontario Power Generation Inc. A professional engineer, Mr. Charlebois is responsible for the operation of OPG's nuclear, hydro and fossil businesses.



AMO Engaging Municipalties

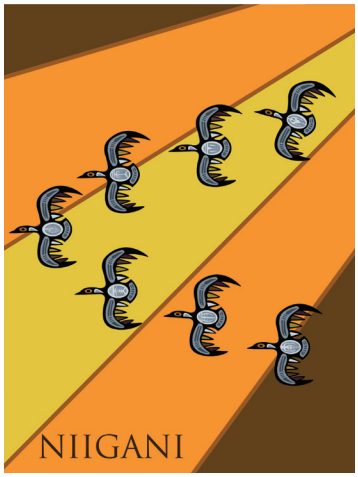
NWMO's **Cynthia Summers** presents Halton Hills Mayor **Rick Bonnette** with an Apple iPod. Mayor Bonnette's winning ballot was drawn from among those of 260 delegates who visited the NWMO booth at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa.

Niigani: New Logo

Niigani, the NWMO Aboriginal working group proposed by the Elder's Forum, has adopted a logo. Depicting geese in flight, the logo produced by National Media in Ottawa is based on artwork commissioned last year through **Kevin Belmore**, an Ojibwe artist from Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The geese flying in formation represent "all people working together to find solutions," said Niigani chair **Gordon Williams**.

Niigani is working with the NWMO to develop a process to assist the creation of a partnership between Aboriginal communities and the NWMO for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The group's mission is to "protect and preserve all creation: air, land, water, plants, medicines, animals and human kind – guided by the seven universal teachings of love, trust, sharing, honesty, humility, respect and wisdom."



Geese in Flight

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