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NEWS

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Design of Siting Process Begins

The NWMO has begun the dialogue to collaboratively design a process for selecting a site for a deep geological repository. Over the next few months, we want to hear from Canadians about their expectations and preferences for an appropriate siting process. It is important that this process be designed, from the beginning, not only to address technical considerations required to ensure the safety of any site, but also to address the objectives and concerns of Canadians.

In June 2007, the Government of Canada selected Adaptive Phased Management (APM) as Canada's approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. As we implement APM, the NWMO is committed to working collaboratively with interested and potentially affected citizens and organizations to seek an informed and willing community to host the central repository.

To help initiate conversation and input, we have prepared a discussion document – *Moving Forward Together: Designing the Process for Selecting a Site* – as well as a number of backgrounders, available on our website at www.nwmo.ca.

As a second step in developing the siting process, the NWMO will prepare a draft proposal based on the input received this Fall. The draft proposal for a site selection process, which will be released next year, will be the subject of an extensive review and dialogue in 2009. The process of site selection will begin only after the draft siting process has been considered and discussed with Canadians and refinements are made to address suggestions and concerns raised.

Participate in the design of a siting process through any of the following ways by December 15, 2008.

Website

- Make a submission
- Join an e-dialogue
- Complete a survey

Mail, email or fax

Attention: Dr. Anda Kalvins
Nuclear Waste Management Organization
22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6th Floor, Toronto, ON M4T 2S3
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Keep up to date at
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The work continues...

NWMO Helps Raise Money for the YMCA



NWMO staff Richard Heystee, Eric Sykes, Cynthia Jourdain and Andre Vorauer entered the YMCA Corporate Team Challenge to raise money for the YMCA Strong Kids program. The four by five-kilometre relay race was held on May 28, 2008.

Implementation Plan and Transparency Policy Finalized

The NWMO has finalized its Implementation Plan, *Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2008 to 2012*. "This Implementation Plan sets out our ideas about how to move forward over the next five years. The Plan was built upon our priorities and strategic planning objectives and developed with the guidance the NWMO has received as part of its engagement program over the past year," said NWMO President Ken Nash.

The Plan was released in draft for public comment in April 2008. The opportunities for public comment included:

- Review during Citizen Panels in four provinces;
- Posting of the draft Plan with questions on the NWMO website;
- Mailing of the draft Plan with questions to interested individuals; and
- E-dialogue.

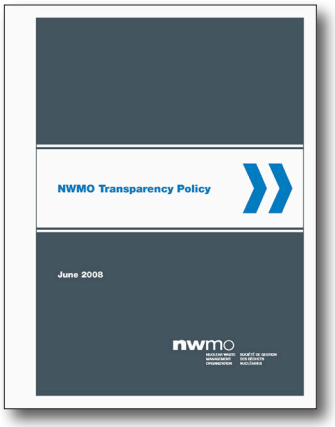


Implementation Plan

Following the review period, the Plan was revised to reflect many of the comments received. Overall, comments were generally supportive of the Plan. There was an endorsement of the objectives, activities and its design as a 'living' document to be updated regularly, and our commitment to openness and transparency was consistently roundly supported.

Based on the feedback, the NWMO revised the document:

- Concepts have been clarified;
- Complex technical terminology has been simplified; and
- Additional background information has been provided.



Transparency Policy

Several suggestions were made that apply more directly to future stages in the implementation of APM, and they will be kept in mind as the NWMO moves forward.

The NWMO has made a commitment to be "open and transparent in our process, communications and decision-making, so that the approach is clear to all Canadians."

NWMO released its Draft Transparency Policy for public review along with its Draft Implementation Plan. A number of submissions were received from individuals and various organizations, including Aboriginal organizations and government agencies. Comments were generally supportive, and based on the feedback received, several changes were made to the Policy, primarily for clarification.

For a copy of the Implementation Plan or Transparency Policy, please visit our website at www.nwmo.ca/implementationplan and www.nwmo.ca/transparencypolicy.

NWMO Establishes Independent Technical Review Group

The NWMO has established an Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG). The ITRG, initially comprised of four independent technical specialists, will submit regular impartial reports on the NWMO's technical program. All these reports will be posted on NWMO's website (www.nwmo.ca).

"The ITRG will provide the NWMO with valuable external expertise and counsel, ensuring we adopt the best technical practices available in Canada and internationally to achieve our mandate, which is to implement a long-term management approach for Canada's used nuclear fuel," said NWMO Vice-President of Science and Technology Frank King. "Canadians have identified the need for the safe and secure long-term containment and isolation of the used nuclear fuel that we produce, with the flexibility for future generations to act in their own best interests. They have also told us that third-party verification will provide a measure of trust in our work."

The mandate of the ITRG is to inform the NWMO Board of Directors whether the NWMO technical program is based on appropriate scientific and technical approaches and methodologies; is consistent with international practices; would broaden and advance NWMO's technical knowledge to adequately support implementation of Adaptive Phased Management; and has sufficient technical resources to achieve its mission.

The ITRG members are from Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. They are internationally recognized specialists in their fields and have significant experience in the technologies associated with the implementation of nuclear waste geologic repository projects.

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Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory 15TH Technical Evaluation Forum

SKB (Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company) held the Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory (HRL) 15th Technical Evaluation Forum (TEF) at Oskarshamn, Sweden, on May 28-29, 2008. At the centre of discussions was the progress on joint underground experiments and demonstrations of deep geological repository technology at the Äspö HRL in crystalline rock.

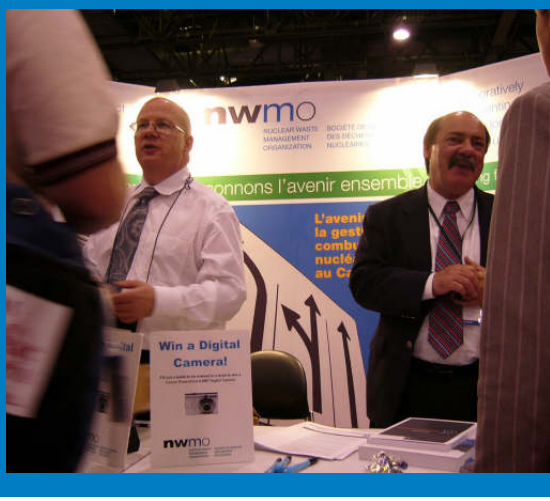
The TEF welcomed representatives from SKB and radioactive waste management organizations from around the world, scientific experts and principal investigators at Äspö HRL. NWMO representatives Sean Russell and Ken Birch were also in attendance and discussed the organization's involvement at the Äspö HRL including the colloid dipole experiment, large scale gas injection test, task force on engineered barrier system and task force on groundwater modelling.

Other topics discussed at the TEF were the reduction of groundwater inflow, performance of backfill and sealing material (with support from Canadian researchers at the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited), and key repository engineering and safety issues.

Äspö HRL continues to be an international centre for underground research and demonstration activities in crystalline rock for Canada, Finland, France, Germany and Japan. About 11,000 people visit the centre each year, among which nearly 2,000 are from other countries.

NWMO Municipal Engagement

NWMO staff made a presentation to municipal leaders and also held an information booth at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Quebec on May 30 to June 1, 2008. These engagement activities form part of NWMO's ongoing commitment to collaboratively move forward with the implementation of Canada's long-term management plan for used nuclear fuel.



NWMO Annual Geoscience Seminar 2008

The NWMO held its annual geoscience seminar on June 10-11 at the Hockley Valley Resort in Orangeville. Over the two-day seminar, 17 presentations and two panel discussions were held, focusing on results from NWMO geoscience work programs and the research these programs will undertake in the upcoming years.

The seminar allows for researchers and consultants from varied geoscience disciplines to improve their understanding of one another's research activities, and thereby foster new ideas, collaboration and consensus on geoscience issues and challenges related to deep geological repositories.

The seminar brought together 41 Canadian and international participants with a broad range of expertise from universities, research organizations and consulting firms, including researchers invited from Europe and the United States.

The main themes addressed during the seminar were long-term geosphere stability and development of site characterization tools and methods. More specifically, the seminar participants shared results of recent work activities related to climate change (glaciation), seismicity, and the long-term evolution of hydrogeologic and geochemical aspects of deep groundwater flow systems.



Some of this year's NWMO Geoscience Seminar participants

The panel discussions addressed global warming and its potential influence on the long-term stability of the geosphere, and the use of geoscience in support of the safety case for deep geological repositories.

Summer Aboriginal Engagement Activities

It has been a busy summer for two of NWMO's summer students, Brian Gillingham and Mahogany McGuire, who were hired to attend and make presentations at various Aboriginal events and gatherings. Brian Gillingham is a member of Metis Nation of Ontario and starts his law studies this September. As for Mahogany McGuire, she is a member of Gull Bay First Nation and enrolled in her second year of Education studies. This summer project has helped them enhance their skills in active listening, presentations and social research. It has also expanded their experience in interacting with Aboriginal people and learn more about their culture.

Among the events were a youth outdoor wellness camp in Saskatchewan, a science camp through First Nations University in Regina, a youth computer camp at Tyendinaga (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte) in the Kingston/Belleville area, a youth camp on Indian Island in New Brunswick, and an Elders' Gathering in Porcupine Plain in Saskatchewan.

In addition to these events, a program of interviews with Aboriginal Elders was developed. The semi-structured interviews sought to learn lessons from the personal experiences of Elders in four key areas:

1) Awareness and capacity building in development projects in Aboriginal communities;
2) How a project such as the Adaptive Phased Management approach can contribute to community development and sustainability;
3) How Traditional Knowledge and western science might be interwoven; and
4) How Elders might be involved in NWMO's work over the long term.

We interviewed four members of the Elders' Forum and NWMO Aboriginal working group Niigani in New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. The members in New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan then assisted the NWMO in setting up and convening a series of interviews with Elders in their areas.

Following completion of the project, the students prepared a project report which will be available on the NWMO website.





TOP ❯❯ NWMO summer student Brian Gillingham at the youth outdoor wellness camp in Saskatchewan.

BOTTOM ❯❯ From left to right: Dan Smoke, NWMO summer students Brian Gillingham and Mahogany McGuire, NWMO Engagement and Communications representative Jessica Cornelius, Mary Lou Smoke, and NWMO Engagement and Communications representative Cynthia Jourdain at one of the Aboriginal Elders interviews in Ontario.

NWMO Citizen Panels Program

The Citizen Panels program was created after many Canadians told the NWMO that it must involve not only a wide variety of specialists, but also ordinary citizens in the implementation of a long-term management approach for used nuclear fuel in Canada.

The program is designed to randomly select citizens from the four provinces participating in the nuclear fuel cycle to meet periodically to provide input on different phases of NWMO's work. Meeting notes on the Citizen Panel sessions are available on our website at www.nwmo.ca/citizenpanels.

Citizen Panels form part of the many engagement activities the NWMO has put in place to solicit input from Canadians. Other engagement initiatives include comments and submissions through the NWMO website, e-dialogues, web surveys, multi-party dialogues, meetings and briefing sessions. Individuals interested in joining a dialogue can do so by registering on our website at www.nwmo.ca.

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