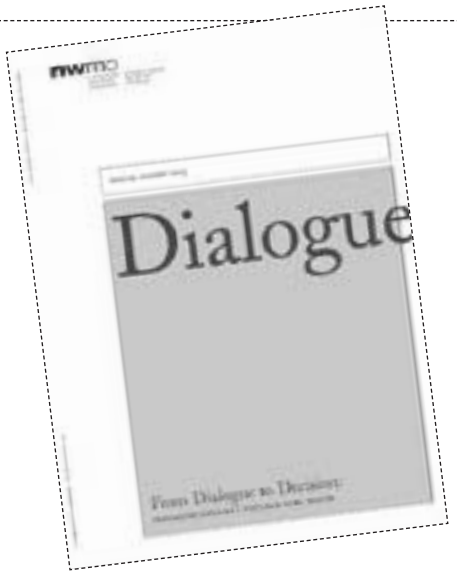
nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

the nwmo news

Vol.4, Issue 1 | JUNE 2006

ANNUAL REPORT – 2005:
NWMO UPDATES PARLIAMENT



From Dialogue to Decision
2005 Annual Report

The Hon. Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources Canada tabled the 2005 NWMO Annual Report before both Houses of Parliament on April 10, 2006. The document was submitted to the minister and simultaneously made public in March. The NWMO is required by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* to submit an account of its activities annually within three months after the end of each fiscal year.

From Dialogue to Decision details an eventful year for the NWMO. 2005 saw completion of a significant round of public engagement leading to publication of the Draft Study Report in May, and a second series of dialogues prior to completion and release of the Final Study

continued on page 2...

CANADA'S WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:
KEN NASH AT CNA

A comprehensive strategy for long-term nuclear waste management is much more than a view of what the end point looks like says Ken Nash, Chair of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.



Ken Nash
Significant Progress

Mr. Nash was a keynote speaker at the 2006 Canadian Nuclear Association annual seminar. "A nuclear waste strategy comprises several building blocks essential to long-term success and involves communities, three levels of government, regulators, suppliers, researchers, and waste owners," he told delegates. The good news," he said, "is that the key elements of a strategy are already in place here in Canada."

According to Nash, the most fundamental element of a successful strategy is a national policy that assigns appropriate accountabilities. The Canadian framework, he says, clearly assigns responsibility for policy, oversight and

continued on page 4...

What's Inside...

ANNUAL REPORT — 2005:
NWMO UPDATES PARLIAMENT
.....p.01/02

CANADA'S WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
KEN NASH AT CNA
.....p.01/04

TRUST FUNDS:
2005 DEPOSITS
.....p.02

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:
WATCHING BRIEF
.....p.02

AWAITING THE DECISION:
NWMO WORKPLAN 2006
.....p.03

ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE:
ISSUES TABLES
.....p.03

RECOMMENDED ADAPTIVE
PHASED MANAGEMENT
.....p.04

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES:
SUMMARY TRANSLATIONS
.....p.04

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The work continues.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:
WATCHING BRIEF

Canada is not alone developing a long-term management strategy for used nuclear fuel. The NWMO keeps a watchful eye on how waste management programs are advancing in other countries. France and the United Kingdom are two places where decisions are imminent.

The French Senate has adopted a nuclear waste strategy bill aimed at beginning construction of a deep geologic repository in 2015 and starting operations by 2025. The legislation is now before the National Assembly which is expected to debate and vote on it before the end of summer. (See: www.andra.fr)

In the United Kingdom the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) is proposing a two-stage plan to store nuclear waste prior to underground disposal. The draft recommendation was published for public comment in the spring and is expected to be finalized for presentation to the government by the end of July. (www.corwm.org.uk) ■

...continued from page 1

ANNUAL REPORT — 2005

and recommendation in November.

The report also presents NWMO's audited financial statements for 2005, and confirms contributions made by the used fuel producers to dedicated trust funds for long-term nuclear waste management. (See Trust Funds)

"This annual report signals the conclusion of one phase of our life," said NWMO president Elizabeth Dowdeswell. "Our task in 2006 is to prepare for phase two of our mandate, implementing the Government of Canada's decision."

The 2005 Annual Report is available for review on the NWMO website: www.nwmo.ca/annualreports. ■

TRUST FUNDS:
2005 DEPOSITS

The owners of Canada's used nuclear fuel have made their 2005 contributions to trust funds earmarked to pay for long-term used fuel management. Deposits are made annually by Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec, NB Power and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. In full compliance with requirements under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA)*, contributions to the funds now total $880 million. The money can only be used by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization after a construction or operating licence has been issued to implement the waste management approach decided upon by the Government of Canada.

In addition to its *NFWA* trust fund, Ontario Power Generation announced recently that it has $6.6 billion set aside to cover its future liability for nuclear waste management and decommissioning. The company continues to add $400 million annually to segregated funds that will be used for the purpose. OPG estimates



Jim Hankinson
President OPG

that the present net value of its future liability for nuclear waste is $8.5 billion.

In a news release, OPG president Jim Hankinson said, "Waste management is an important responsibility of the nuclear industry and segregated funds ensure that the money necessary to safely manage these wastes is set aside. These arrangements will ensure the funds will continue to grow over the next 50 to 80 years to fully meet our responsibilities." ■

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**

Vol.4, Issue 1 | JUNE 2006

AWAITING THE DECISION:
NWMO WORKPLAN 2006



Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Continuing Obligations

While the Government of Canada is considering its response to the NWMO study report, the organization is preparing for the decision.

"We are in transition," said NWMO President Elizabeth Dowdeswell. "During this period of government review we have continuing obligations under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA)*, and we are preparing for the next phase of our mandate, implementation."

The *NFWA* sets out a number of responsibilities for the NWMO including meeting its ongoing reporting requirements through an annual report which is tabled in Parliament. (See NWMO Updates Parliament) Additionally as the government continues its review of the NWMO study the organization remains available to provide necessary support including briefings.

A significant requirement of the NWMO is that it provide detailed financial information on the management approach the government selects. Preparatory work is underway this year to ensure that the NWMO has available necessary information on the total cost, financial guarantees, budget forecasts, the formula for calculating them, and the level of deposits required by the major waste owners to their respective nuclear fuel waste trust funds to pay for the chosen management approach. All of this must be ready for the first annual report following the decision and will be subject to the review and approval of the Minister of Natural Resources Canada.

Meanwhile the Board of Directors and member organizations are reviewing the NWMO governance framework, its policies and procedures, and the resources that will be needed when the mandate evolves to one of implementation. The organization must also ensure that it will have the necessary expertise and capability to assume its new and expanded responsibilities after a government decision.

Ongoing communication is being sustained. Throughout the transition period, the NWMO intends to maintain its relationships with the many communities of interest it engaged over the course of its three year study. The website is regularly updated. And the NWMO continues to respond to requests for meetings and briefings.

An important opportunity during the transition is taking stock of lessons learned during the study period. The organization is reviewing its public engagement activities, including its website, and considering which ones might be helpful during implementation. The Advisory Council is assisting the review.

Development of a siting process and other implementation activities will not begin until after a government decision. In the interim, the NWMO has much to learn from past experiences of siting and operating nuclear and other large projects in Canada and abroad. A review of best practices is underway to enable the organization to move quickly and assuredly in implementing the government's chosen approach for long-term used fuel management.

"All of our work during the transition period will help further develop and maintain the foundation we are building for implementation," said Ms. Dowdeswell. "We want to initiate the second phase of our mandate in a timely way following the government's decision." ■

ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE:
ISSUES TABLES

Ongoing dialogue between the NWMO and Aboriginal people is helping to build the needed foundation for a long-term, positive relationship. Two Aboriginal Issues Tables are an important part of the 2006 NWMO work plan.

A Communication Issue Table is designed to enhance the NWMO's understanding of how to best develop, maintain and continuously improve two-way communications with Aboriginal communities, elders and youth. Another table will explore innovative approaches to natural resource management resulting from the evolving role of Aboriginal people. The NWMO wants to learn from this experience and to draw insights from it which can be applied to the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Following up on last year's success, an Elders Forum will be reconvened later this year to review lessons learned from the Issues Tables and from a series of local community dialogues. Youth participants, who are named by the Elders, will be invited to their own dialogue a day prior to the full Forum. Reports from the Issues Tables and the Elders Forum will be posted at www.nwmo.ca as they become available. ■

the nwmo news

Vol.4, Issue 1 | JUNE 2006

THE NWMO HAS RECOMMENDED ADAPTIVE PHASED MANAGEMENT BECAUSE IT:

- Commits this generation to take the first steps now to manage the used nuclear fuel we have created.
- Recognizes that over the long term it would be imprudent to rely on a human management system alone with its changing forms of institutions and governance.
- Will meet rigorous safety and security standards through its design and process.
- Allows sequential decision-making, providing flexibility to adapt to experience and social change.
- Provides genuine choice by taking a financially-conservative approach, and providing for capacity to be transferred from one generation to the next.
- Promotes continuous learning, allowing for improvements in operations and design that would enhance performance and reduce uncertainties.
- Builds confidence in the technology and supporting systems before the final phase is implemented.
- Provides a viable, safe and secure long-term storage capability, with the potential for retrievability of used fuel which can be exercised until future generations have confidence to close the facility.
- Provides for continuous monitoring and contingency against unforeseen events, either natural or man-made.
- Is rooted in values and ethics, and engages citizens allowing for societal judgments as to whether there is sufficient certainty to proceed with each step. ■

...continued from page 1

CANADA'S WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

regulation to the federal government, and responsibility for funding and managing the wastes to the waste owners.

Comparing Canada to Finland and Sweden, which both have similar policy frameworks and are making the best progress, Mr. Nash concludes that the Government of Canada chose the right policy framework in 1996. "Looking at other examples where the government is responsible for repository programs, the track record is not so successful," he said.

Other important elements of a successful strategy listed by Nash are: a track record of successful interim storage, an effective regulatory regime, financial capacity that avoids passing costs to future generations, the best technology, the industrial capacity to build cost-effective management facilities and, most importantly, a culture of open and transparent public engagement.

Nash concludes that Canada has a well-developed strategy. "We have made significant progress and we have built the basis for long-term success," he said.

A full text of Mr. Nash's remarks is available at: www.nwmo.ca/speeches. ■

ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES:

SUMMARY TRANSLATIONS

Choosing A Way Forward is now available in summary form in several Aboriginal languages. The Final Study summary has been translated into Cree, Ojicree, Ojibwe, Inuktitut, Passamaquody Maliseet, Dene and Mi'kmaq.

Over the course of the NWMO study, more than 2500 Aboriginal Peoples engaged in dialogues on the future management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The activities were designed and delivered by 14 national, regional and local Aboriginal organizations. Each process was different, representing the needs and concerns of the people represented. Reports from all of the dialogues along with the translated Final Study summary document are available on the NWMO website: www.nwmo.ca/aboriginaldialogues. ■



Report Summary
Ojicree

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