

ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE NWMO
c/o NWMO, 22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M4T 2S3

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi
Minister, Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room: C7-1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

April 2019

Dear Minister Sohi,

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to provide an update on some of our activities in 2018.

Throughout the year, the NWMO kept us abreast of the progress of implementation of Adaptive Phased Management (APM) and the continued advancement of this important national infrastructure project. The NWMO is progressing through the siting process, with five candidate areas of an initial 22 still under consideration.

In 2018, the Advisory Council focused on continuing to monitor the NWMO's site selection process, and when necessary and appropriate, provide advice. Some of the topics related to site selection the Council discussed include used nuclear fuel transportation and technical matters related to the long-term safety of the site and deep geological repository.

The Council also continued to support the NWMO's stated goals of building meaningful and sustainable partnerships, and members encouraged the NWMO to continue building stronger ties with municipalities, and First Nation and Métis communities in each area. The NWMO continued to provide the Council with regular updates on the guidance received from the Council of Elders and Youth, and the Advisory Council members were supportive of the development of the NWMO's Reconciliation Statement in 2018.

In addition, the Council paid particular attention to the NWMO's review and update to its Ethical and Social framework, and members endorsed the idea that the NWMO's selection criteria must be grounded in said framework, and be based on clear, established criteria and processes.

Council members continued to encourage the NWMO to focus on communication of this complicated technical topic in accessible and plain language. The NWMO has made strides in this area, and in particular, it is working to develop its communications about water as it relates to the repository and improving communication products related to other complex aspects of APM.

The Council has actively monitored and advised on Canada's evolving public policy and regulatory landscape related to major infrastructure projects, with consideration to how APM may be impacted.

In 2018, NWMO management also reviewed Council recommendations from the last triennial report, released in 2017, to ensure they were addressed to the Council's satisfaction as members look ahead to the next triennial report in 2020.

Our focus in 2019 will be on reviewing the NWMO's work as required by statute, and preparing our comments for the 2017-19 Triennial Report. This report will be submitted to you in March 2020 and made public at the same time.

Sincerely, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Cameron".

Dr. David Cameron
Chair, Advisory Council to the NWMO

cc: Mr. Donald Obonsawin, Vice-Chair
Mr. Joseph Cavalancia Dr. Monica Gattinger Ms. Sue Hartwig Dr. Dean Jacobs
Ms. Diane M. Kelly Dr. Derek H. Lister Dr. Dougal McCreath Ms. Linda Thompson