

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: September 24, 2019 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. ET On September 24, 2019

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair (Items 4-23)
Monica Gattinger
Sue Hartwig
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Diane Kelly (via conference call)
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (Items 1-11)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (Items 5- 21)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations (Items 1-16)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer, VP Contract Management
Allan Webster	Director of Regulatory Affairs and Environmental Assessment (Items 1-9)

Guests:

Celia Milne Advisory Council Triennial Report Writer

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair acknowledged Toronto and NWMO are located in Indigenous Territory, the Dish with One Spoon Territory.

2. Safety Moment

Jamie Matear provided a safety moment related to preventing household injuries.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the June 17, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members as written. The actions list was also reviewed.

4. President's Report

The President updated the Council on recent developments which included updates on:

- NWMO's accomplishments to-date in 2019;
- the land access program in Southern Ontario;
- the progress of borehole drilling in the Ignace/Wabigoon area;
- work on the Reconciliation Policy;
- NWMO's work to increase its visibility;
- NWMO's recent attendance at several important conferences: Canadian Nuclear Society; IAEA and Women in Nuclear.

A Council member asked for a copy of the NWMO papers presented at the recent CNS conference. (*)

5. Update on APM Site Selection

The Council received updates from staff on NWMO's site selection engagement activities and assessment work. The report included highlights for the reporting period from June 2019 through August 2019 and included progress against corporate performance objectives, engagement activities per siting region and project costs.

Staff provided an update on key initiatives for site selection which included the partnership roadmap, stock-taking, facilitated learning, community surveys and land access in Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce. Progress on the siting selection process in each of the regions was provided.

Dr. Hirschorn provided updates and an overview of the progress of field, interpretation and modelling activities related to site assessment in each of the three regions. As a follow up to questions raised by a Council member at the last meeting, it was reported that the Council member met with Dr. Hirschorn to have a discussion on some more detailed technical issues.

Council members talked about the functioning of the Partnership Working Groups in the communities and their interaction and relationship to the Community Liaison Committees. Council also has interest in understanding how municipalities and Indigenous groups are working together and discussed NWMO's work underway with the Indigenous groups in the siting areas.

Item 6-9 were held in camera.

10. Review and Comment on NWMO Implementation Plan

In support of preparation of the Triennial Report, Council was presented with the NWMO's strategic implementation plan for the next five fiscal years. Ms. Frizzell reported that the implementation plan is published every year and there is an opportunity for public comment. Comments are then incorporated into the next year's Plan.

A Council member suggested that the introduction could better reflect the status of the changing NWMO organization.

Item 11 was held in camera

12. Visibility Strategy

Council was presented with an update on the implementation of the NWMO's visibility strategy and its focus on goals, strategies and priorities which will prepare NWMO, the Siting communities and other key audiences for stock-taking and preferred site selection.

Advisory Council members talked about the involvement NWMO has seen from organizations opposing nuclear energy and NWMO's project. A Council member suggested that youth should be explicitly considered as they are a very influential on climate change issues. Management reported that there is a youth engagement strategy in place but NWMO will be exploring additional opportunities.

Item 13 was held in camera.

14. Reconciliation Implementation

A final draft of the Reconciliation Policy was presented to the Council and included further advice from the Council of Elders and Youth. Council heard that upon approval by the Board at its September 27th meeting, the Policy will be finalized through traditional ceremony at the joint meeting between the Council of Elders and Youth and the Board of Directors in October 2019.

Council was very impressed with the work NWMO has undertaken to develop the leading edge work on the reconciliation policy and are very supportive of the policy as written. The Council wanted to consider its role and how it can be more active in reconciliation. Council will consider making a statement on Reconciliation in the Triennial Report and will discuss the issue further once they have undergone Reconciliation Training.

Council members also suggested that NWMO is doing some very innovative things and that these best practices should be documented. Management stated that many of the practices NWMO has implemented will be documented during the impact assessment.

15. Participatory Approach to Engage Public on Safety

Council received an update on the ongoing progress in engaging the public and communities in discussions about safety. Management reported that the goal of this work is to ensure that concerns are addressed, safety assessment scenarios are inclusive, and technical and social safety are clearly linked.

Council members were very pleased at the work NWMO has undertaken on this topic. Particularly Council stated the work NWMO was doing to communicate the story of water was very effective and NWMO might consider doing something similar on environmental monitoring. A Council member suggested that some key technical terms (such as hydraulic conductivity, gradients etc.) should be inserted into the story of water as the public's knowledge of the topic grows.

16. Planning for Centre of Expertise

The Advisory Council was presented with NWMO's plans to establish the Centre of Expertise (CoE) at the preferred siting area shortly after selection of a single site in conjunction with the beginning of detailed site characterization. Management reported that the CoE will likely be home, from NWMO's perspective, to a technical and social research program, and a technology demonstration program. Other items will be added based on siting community input.

Council members were very interested in the Centre of Expertise and made suggestions about how NWMO could leverage the use of this CoE in areas of interest to the chosen community. Management cited a number of international examples of this type of collaboration.

17. Developing Skills in Communities

Staff updated the Advisory Council on the advancement of supporting development of skills in communities which aims to enhance their ability to make an informed and willing decision to host the project in their area. Recent activities discussed were leadership and governance, collaborative environmental monitoring and skills development support for community members.

A Council member asked about what will happen to the community that is not selected in the end and talked about how NWMO is building capacity within those communities in order to enhance community well-being even if they do not get the project.

18. Standing Reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to: Council of Elders and Youth, technical matters, external landscape, transportation engagement, media analysis and youth engagement.

19. Report on Municipal Forum / Council of Elders

Sue Hartwig provided an update on her participation at the NWMO Municipal Forum meeting and Dean Jacobs provided an update on his participation at the Council of Elders meeting. Ms. Hartwig was complimentary about the NWMO's new mobile exhibit which was presented to the Municipal Forum. Mr. Jacobs suggested that the Council of Elders is examining their role as NWMO narrows down to two sites.

20. 2019 AC Tracking Matrix

Council reviewed the draft 2019 advice tracking matrix which included advice from the June 2019 meeting. Council provided a comment on one of the items which management undertook to update.

21. Preparing for Annual Meeting with the Board

Dr. Ben Belfadhel discussed two possible topics for the annual discussion the Advisory Council will have with the Board on December 4, 2019. Council members discussed and agreed with the proposed topics.

22. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council met on September 25 to work on developing its comments for the next Triennial Report and will hold extra meetings in October to continue this work. The next regular meeting of the Advisory Council will be on December 4, 2019. The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

23. The Council then met in camera.

Dated the 4th day of December, 2019

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair