

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: December 4, 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. EST On December 4, 2019

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair
Monica Gattinger
Sue Hartwig
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Diane Kelly (items 6-18)
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-17)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection (items 1-17)
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-17)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-17)
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-17)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-17)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (items 1-17)
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement (items 1-17)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-17)
Christina Vechsler	Senior Counsel (items 1-17)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations (items 1-17)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer, VP Contract Management (Items 1-10)
Allan Webster	Director of Regulatory Affairs and Environmental Assessment (items 6-11)

Guests:

Celia Milne	Advisory Council Triennial Report Writer (items 1-17)
Dr. Sandy Cruden	Member GRG (via video conference) (item 4)

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Council agreed to one order change on the agenda, moving the Financial Surety item to the morning to accommodate the presenter's schedule.

The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement.

2. Safety Moment

Gillian Morris provided a safety moment related to safety during the holidays.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members as written. The actions list was also reviewed.

4. Report from the Geoscientific Review Group (GRG)

Dr. Sandy Cruden of the Geoscience Review Group provided the Council with a bi-annual overview of their interactions, observations and recommendations related to their review of the NWMO's site assessment activities.

The Council asked a number of questions related to Dr. Cruden's report:

- When reviewing the results of borehole drilling were there any results inconsistent with expectations? Dr. Cruden reported that the results were as expected.
- What challenges NWMO might face when preparing a safety case. Dr. Cruden mentioned that reducing the number of uncertainties when developing an understanding of the geological setting is always a challenge, however he reported that in the findings from the first two boreholes seem to indicate that the rock volume is quite simple.
- What will happen to all of the data related to the borehole drilling and whether there was a plan to share the information internationally? NWMO expects that the geological research gathered during the project will be available to the siting communities and also to international partners through NWMO's collaboration agreements.
- Are there any challenges to NWMO gathering all the data it requires in southern Ontario prior to final site selection in 2023? Dr. Cruden reported that while time frames are short, much information on Southern Ontario geology currently exists and will help NWMO in its investigations.
- How is NWMO "exceeding international practices". Dr. Cruden reported that there's a considerable amount of innovation being undertaken by the NWMO when it comes to how it develops its approach to site investigations which the GRG considers, in some areas, to exceed international best practices.

5. President's Report

The President began her report by acknowledging Blair Seaborn's contributions and his passing in November. Mr. Seaborn spent eight years as Chair of the federal Environmental Assessment Panel on Nuclear Fuel Waste Management.

The President updated the Council on NWMO's work and accomplishments during 2019 which included the following highlights:

- narrowing down to two potential siting areas in the NWMO siting process proceeding toward final site selection in 2023;
- progress on borehole drilling in the Ignace / Wabigoon area;
- progress in the engineering, safety analysis and transportation programs;
- launching of the land access program in Southern Ontario which, once complete, will allow NWMO to conduct borehole drilling in that area;
- continuation of a robust research and development program with approximately 25 universities;
- building NWMO's visibility program with increased conference participation, media coverage and speaking engagements;
- the beginning of implementation of NWMO's Reconciliation Policy with a large number of staff undergoing Reconciliation training; and
- enhancing NWMO's understanding of the external landscape on topics such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and other nuclear industry developments.

Council members discussed the President's report and congratulated NWMO on its great number of accomplishments in 2019. Council members asked about NWMO's use of information gathered from the Whiteshell Underground Laboratory. Council also discussed possible effects of the new Impact Assessment legislation and how the January vote of the Saugeen Ojibway Nations on the low and intermediate level waste DGR could impact NWMO's work.

6. 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 September 2019 through November 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 establishment of roads, drilling and testing of boreholes 2 and 3 as well as, the construction of borehole 4-6 – all in the Ignace / Wabigoon area.

A Council member asked about a town who passed a resolution against transporting nuclear waste. Management discussed its regional and engagement transportation work and also its work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Council members requested a summary of the integration report from the first borehole at the next meeting (*).

7. Narrowing Down Rollout

Management reported to Council on the rollout of the latest narrowing down in the NWMO siting process that saw the Township of Ignace in northwestern Ontario, and Townships of South Bruce and Huron-Kinloss in southern Ontario move forward in the site selection process. Management reported that only one of the southern Ontario communities will move forward in the site selection process once a potential repository site is located in the area

through the ongoing land access program. It was also reported that the areas around the Townships of Hornepayne and Manitouwadge in northern Ontario will no longer be considered.

Council members asked about the reactions of communities no longer moving forward in the process and also about NWMO's French language coverage of the narrowing down.

Items 8 and 9 were discussed in camera.

10. Report on Community Surveys

Management reported on the recently completed community surveys which were planned and conducted jointly by the NWMO and communities and managed by a third party consultant.

Jo-Ann Facella reported that the objective of the survey was to assess the level of awareness of the project in the siting communities and better understand how to improve the way NWMO communicates and engages with residents. She noted that the survey was generally well received in the communities and had higher than average response rates.

Council members asked to receive a summary of the responses to the open-ended survey questions at the next meeting (*).

11. Standing Reports

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

In preparing for its Triennial Report, Council had requested some additional information related to NWMO's transportation program. Ms. Facella summarized NWMO's work on transportation engagement and NWMO work to build confidence in transportation safety. She also talked about the timing of engagement and the level of work required before the final site decision in 2023.

Council had a discussion about NWMO's strategy, plans and deliverables to assess the safety of transportation and engagement along the transportation routes between now and 2023. Council expressed concern about the possibility of communities along transportation routes passing resolutions against transporting the waste without being well informed on safety. There was also an understanding of the need to balance being transparent and sharing information while also not prematurely creating issues considering the long time frames until waste will be transported. Council was informed NWMO will be issuing its transportation framework in 2020 which will provide some additional clarity on plans for transportation.

12. Report on Municipal Forum / Council of Elders

Dean Jacobs provided an update on his participation at the Council of Elders meeting in October 2019 which focused on reconciliation and a ceremony with the Council of Elders, invited guests and the Board of Directors to formalize and bless the Reconciliation Policy.

There has not been a Municipal Forum meeting since the September Advisory Council meeting.

13. 2019 AC Tracking Matrix

Council reviewed the tracking matrix for 2019 which included advice from the September 2019 meeting.

14. Financial Surety

Management led the discussion on NWMO's financial surety in support of the Council's work on the Triennial Report using Council's published criteria on assessing financial capacity. Management outlined the work to update the Lifecycle Cost Estimate (which will be completed in 2021), outlining the key estimate assumptions, and the trust funds. Management reported that the trust funds are fully funded for the management of the number of fuel bundles produced to date.

15. Advisory Council's Role in Reconciliation

Bob Watts initiated the discussion on the Council's role in reconciliation by describing how NWMO will assess its own policies and procedures using an internal Reconciliation Assessment Tool. Mr. Watts noted that Council could examine some of the issues brought to it by management through a reconciliation lens.

Council members noted that they were pleased to have participated in NWMO's reconciliation training and discussed how it might view its own Triennial Report through a reconciliation lens. Council planned to and would consider making a statement in its Triennial Report on reconciliation. Council members will continue to explore how to use NWMO's Reconciliation Policy to guide its work and that it would like to further develop its relationship with the Council of Elders and Youth.

16. Preparing for the Discussion with the Board of Directors

Council discussed items in preparation for the meeting with the Board of Directors.

17. Next meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council met with its writer for two full days on December 3rd and 5th to continue its work to prepare its Triennial Report before the end of 2019. The next regular meeting of the Advisory Council will be on March 23, 2020.

18. In Camera Session

The Council met in camera without the presence of staff or management.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 3:00 p.m.

Dated the 8th day of May, 2020

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair