

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 14, 2021 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 via Videoconference,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT on June 14, 2021

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair
Joseph Cavalancia
Monica Gattinger
Sue Hartwig
Dean Jacobs
Diane Kelly
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Stella Swanson

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-21)
Caitlin Burley	Manager, Transportation Engagement (items 9-10)
Jo-Ann Facella	Strategic Advisor, Community Engagement & Well-Being (items 6, 7 and 14)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-21)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (items 3-21)
Bill Gascon	Site Director, Ignace (items 2-21)
Karine Glenn	Strategic Project Director (item 18)
Joe Heil	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Northern Ontario (items 5-21)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (item 17)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Assistant Board Secretary (1-21)
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement (Items 6, 7 and 13)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-21)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-21)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-21)
Christina Vechsler	Director, Partnership & Senior Counsel (items 1-21)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 2-21)
Allan Webster	Director, Regulatory Affairs & Environmental Assessment (item 12)
Derek Wilson	VP Construction & Projects (items 1-21)

Guest:

Celia Milne Triennial Report Writer (items 19-22)

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda / Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EDT.

The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement and held a moment of silence to mark the 215 lives lost with the recent discovery of the unmarked graves at a former residential school in Kamloops, BC.

2. Safety Moment

Bill Gascon provided the safety moment on the importance of water safety and recreational play.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the March 22, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. The actions list was also provided with a Council member suggesting one revision.

4. President's Report

The President provided the Council with her report discussing progress in NWMO's work and activity in the external environment. Ms. Swami discussed NWMO's planned return to the office, plans for in person engagement in the communities and an overview of the site selection work.

The Council discussed small modular reactors (SMR) and their role in Canada's goals of reaching Net Zero by 2050 and how NWMO was communicating information about SMR waste to the siting communities. Council members supported the focus on sustainability and the linkages to the NetZero initiatives. A Council member suggested there might be differences in the definition of sustainability and stewardship between Indigenous and municipal communities and strengthening ties between those communities would be beneficial.

5. Update on APM Site Selection

The Council was provided with a progress update on engagement activities in the siting areas since the last meeting.

The Council had a discussion that centered around who would participate in hosting agreements and who has responsibility for Indigenous consultation. The Council also discussed requests for involvement from other communities surrounding the siting areas.

Items 6, 7, 8 & 9 were held in Camera

10. Update on Transportation Framework

Staff updated the Council on NWMO's draft framework and the 2021 social transportation program. It was reported that NWMO will continue to focus on expanding the engagement of the framework as well as the reinforcement of safety messages. A revised transportation

framework document will be available at the end of the year which incorporates the input received from engagement.

The Council was supportive of the establishment of a Community-Based Transportation Group.

11. Media / Communications in the Communities

Management provided the Council with an update on NWMO's visibility strategy, which is being implemented over multiple years to grow the awareness and support necessary for a resilient site selection decision.

A Council member supported the refresh of NWMO's website which is underway and would like to provide input on how information related to water could be effectively presented. Ms. Frizzell reported that development of comprehensive water information is underway. Council members also provided suggestions on expanding the breadth of NWMO's communications strategy and how NWMO could be taking on a more extensive thought leadership position in certain areas of its work like Reconciliation and willingness.

12. Preparing for Regulatory Processes

The Council was provided with an update on the preparations being made by the NWMO for the federal Impact Assessment process and the licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). Having concluded the federal authority review of the baseline environment methodologies, the NWMO is preparing to commence the federal authority review of the baseline socio-economic methodology.

Council members suggested a community-led study could aide in creating research questions.

13. Community Capacity-Building and Other Initiatives: Report on Potential Supports to Siting Area

The Council was provided with an update and summary of community capacity-building, investments and other initiatives currently implemented and those which will be needed for the selected site, including infrastructure needs.

The Council discussed examples of successful projects in the mining industry. A Council member also suggested that the Centre of Expertise will be very important to the community, as can be seen in the example of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in the U.S. A Council member stated that investments made in the communities now will continue to benefit the communities even if they are not selected.

14. Development of a Sustainability White Paper

Mr. Watts outlined the purpose of the Sustainability White Paper noting that APM was built on a conceptual foundation which includes sustainability at its core. Council comments were invited.

A Council member suggested there might be benefit in having an open dialogue with communities about incorporating their existing definitions of sustainable development into the paper.

15. Standing reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to external landscape, Council of Elders & Youth, Youth Engagement and Land Access.

16. Report on Municipal Forum / Council of Elders

Council member Linda Thompson reported on her attendance at the recent Municipal Forum. Dean Jacobs reported that NWMO's Council of Elders and Youth has been actively meeting and provided a high-level report on the Council's work.

17. APM Technical Overview

The Council was provided with highlights of technical activities since the last meeting which included updates of site assessment, engineering and technical transportation activities.

The Council discussed identifying design principles for waste rock management and the how NWMO will discuss these with the communities.

18. Update on Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste (ISRW)

Staff updated the Council on the development of the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste. It was reported that the NWMO began its engagement activities by hosting the Radioactive Waste Summit from March 30 to April 1, 2021 and also launched a series of activities with the public in nuclear host communities, Indigenous groups, youth and elected officials.

A Council member suggested the public may have some confusion on the division of responsibilities for the waste management strategy between NWMO and National Resources Canada (NRCan). A Council member also suggested there may be some confusion from the public regarding the management of low-level waste at Chalk River and how it relates to the ISRW. Ms. Glenn confirmed that where there are already plans in place for specific wastes, those plans will continue and not be affected by the ISRW

19. Indigenous Knowledge / Western Science Workshop Report

The Council was updated on the implementation of the Indigenous Knowledge Policy and how Indigenous Knowledge is being utilized to improve NWMO processes. The Council showed particular interest in the newly formed water working group whose mandate is to develop a cohesive water strategy that is inclusive of Indigenous Knowledge and to further NWMO's relationships with communities on water protection.

20. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2021 meeting schedule. As NWMO's return to office is planned for October, the Council understood that the Fall meeting would be held via videoconference.

21. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council reviewed its annual advice tracking matrix.

Item 22 was held In Camera

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 3:40 pm

(*) indicates action items.

Dated the 20th day of September, 2021

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair