

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: September 20, 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 September 20, 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)
Tareq Al-Zabet	Site Director, South Bruce (items 1-6)
Caitlin Burley	Manager, Transportation Engagement (item 8)
Jo-Ann Facella	Strategic Advisor, Community Engagement & Well-Being (item 6)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-21)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (items 1-6)
Bill Gascon	Site Director, Ignace (items 1-6)
Karine Glenn	Strategic Project Director (item 17)
Joe Heil	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Northern Ontario (items 1-6)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (item 16)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Assistant Board Secretary (items 1-21)
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement (item 6)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-21, and 23)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-21)
Jennifer Spragge	VP People & Technology and Chief Ethics Officer (item 11)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-21)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-21, and 23)
Derek Wilson	VP Construction & Projects (items 11-21)

**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 9:02 a.m. EDT.

The agenda was agreed upon as written with an addition to Item 15 where a Council member reported on his topical seminar on NWMO's APM program to University of New Brunswick students. The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement.

2. Safety Moment

Joe Heil provided the safety moment on social safety as written in the Seaborn Report.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. The actions list from the previous meeting was also provided.

4. President's Report

The President provided the Council with her report discussing recent developments in NWMO's work. Ms. Swami discussed and provided updates on: operational progress; developments internationally in other waste programs; NWMO's planned return to the office in October; and, NWMO's implementation of a vaccine disclosure policy.

Council discussed the President's report and expressed support for NWMO's increased participation in EDRAM, the international organization of nuclear waste owners. The Council also discussed a recent government decision related to Sweden's waste management program. Council members discussed one item *in camera*.

5. Update on APM Site Selection

Management provided the Council with a progress update on engagement activities in the siting areas since the last meeting, noting the important milestone of resuming *in person* engagement activities.

The Council had a discussion that centered around how safety is defined from a social perspective by NWMO's stakeholders. Management reported on NWMO's work underway related to safety and understanding the communities' perspectives.

Items 6, 7 & 8 were held in Camera

9. Visibility Strategy

Ms. Frizzell provided the Council with an update on NWMO's visibility strategy. The Council was updated on the expansion of NWMO's communication outreach as it moves closer to site selection.

A Council member suggested that consideration be given to increasing the pace of NWMO's expanded outreach. A Council member also suggested that NWMO could incorporate into its

strategy considerations around environmental racism, justice and the coming together of climate change and diversity, equity and inclusion. Youth were also recommended as an important group to include. Another Council member suggested NWMO's message could be tied in with the net zero target messages. A Council member requested more information about NWMO's water protection campaign at the next meeting (\*).

10. Government Relations

The Council was introduced to NWMO's new Director of Government and External Relations – Dakota Kochie who provided an update on NWMO's Government Relations program.

Council members discussed NWMO's lobbyist registration, the importance of Provincial government engagement and including environment and climate change organizations in its outreach.

Item 11 was held in Camera

12. Safety Update

The Council was provided with an update on the NWMO's on-going development of the APM safety program and how it is involving communities and key stakeholders in the evolution.

The Council supported NWMO's work in developing confidence statements in the technical program. A Council member suggested that there not only needs to be confidence in safety technically but also socially. A Council member suggested NWMO work closely with communicators experienced in clearly communicating complex technical subjects to assist in building confidence in safety. Council discussed the concept of safety and the differences in peoples' risk tolerances which can be influenced by their values.

13. Technical Work to Support Site Selection

Mr. Wilson provided the Council with an update on some of the key technical activities over the next two years in support of the Site Selection milestone by the end of 2023.

A Council member asked whether the NWMO had social scientists characterizing the sites and management explained that this will happen through a separate stream of work in the regulatory approvals phase. A Council member also asked about studies surrounding the hazards that are not nuclear-related and management agreed to provide a briefing on the studies that are currently underway (\*). A Council member also suggested NWMO ensures the public is aware of the safety parameters related to the above ground facilities.

14. Standing reports

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

15. Report on Council of Elders and Youth Attendance

Council member Dean Jacobs reported that the NWMO Council of Elders and Youth continues to meet regularly and he reported on his attendance at the recent meeting.

Council member, Derek Lister, reported on a seminar he provided to engineering post-grad students, faculty and staff at the University of New Brunswick regarding APM and NWMO. Council members asked for a copy of Dr. Lister's presentation (\*).

16. APM Technical Overview

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

A Council member asked about whether the Indigenous groups are developing their own Impact Assessment frameworks. Management advised this information would be provided to the Council (\*).

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

Staff updated the Council on the development of the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste including what themes NWMO is hearing from on-going engagement activities.

The Council discussed the sequencing of Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) policy development and NWMO's work on developing the strategy.

18. Update on Implementing Reconciliation Policy

Management provided the Council with an update on the implementation of the Reconciliation Policy, highlighting NWMO's focus on the roll out of Reconciliation training – part 2.

A Council member was pleased to hear that this training is being extended to contractors and suppliers.

19. Possible Topics for December Meeting with Board of Directors

The Council had a lengthy discussion around the possible topics for its annual meeting with the Board of Directors.

Council members agreed to work with management on the discussion topics. Management will create a draft based on Council's discussion and circulate it to the Chair and the Council (\*).

20. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2022 meeting schedule.

21. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council reviewed its annual advice tracking matrix.

Items 22 & 23 were held in Camera.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 4:01 pm

(\*) indicates action items.

*Dated the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021*

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David Cameron  
Advisory Council Chair