

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: May 27, 2009 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 May 27, 2009.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Fred Gilbert
Rudyard Griffiths
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Donald Obonsawin
Daniel Rozon

NWMO Staff Present (except item 9):

Ken Nash President & CEO
Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Public Engagement and Siting
Pat Moran General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Gillian Morris Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research and Dialogue (items 4, 5)
Anda Kalvins Director, Environment (items 4, 5)
Elena Mantagaris Manager, Government and External Relations (items 4, 5)
Pat Patton Director, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations (items 4, 5)
Jamie Robinson Director, Communications (items 4, 5)
Sean Russell Acting VP of APM Technology (item 4, 5, 6)
Ulf Stahmer Senior Engineer (item 6)

Guests for Item 5 (Youth Roundtable):

Robert Barnard Decode
Shauna Houlton Decode
Jessica Millar NWMO Staff, Youth Roundtable Member
Mike Borrelli NWMO Staff, Youth Roundtable Member
Wendy Yan NWMO Staff, Youth Roundtable Member
Kiana Eastmond Youth Roundtable Member
Diane Adams Youth Roundtable Member
Kevin Beattie Youth Roundtable Member
Maximilien Roy Youth Roundtable Member

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting, convened on March 10, 2009.

The Council asked that information regarding the Oklo reactor be passed on to the Elders as it shows that there are natural occurrences of a fission reaction rather than nuclear fission being thought of as a purely man-made process.

UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

The President reported on key areas of activity for the organization. Highlights included reports on:

- the launch of the public review of the design of the siting process;
- provincial government briefings and support;
- the positive response from many Aboriginal organizations wanting to engage on the review of the draft siting process;
- continuing work to issue a contract for the next generation concept design, safety case and cost estimate for Adaptive Phased Management (APM);
- NWMO's signing of a special project arrangement with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) that would facilitate CNSC review of APM design and safety case and CNSC involvement in APM siting;
- issuing of the latest APM implementation plan and strategic planning sessions;
- approval of the proposed funding formula by the Minister of Natural Resources Canada and the request to NWMO to develop a funding formula that incorporates new build reactors;
- senior management changes at Ontario Power Generation and a change in status of one of NWMO's directors;
- NWMO's continued hiring and progress on additional office space;
- progress on the L&ILW DGR - all work is proceeding as planned towards a licensing submission in the first quarter of 2011;
- nuclear developments in Canada and internationally:
 - the Bruce environmental assessment for new build;
 - new nuclear build being considered in Canada;
 - cooperation on low and intermediate level waste in Canada;
 - AECL's plans for the long-term management of its low and intermediate level waste; and

- nuclear waste programs in the U.S., Sweden and the United Kingdom.

In the discussion that followed, the Council discussed NWMO's interface with the federal regulator in this pre-licensing period.

The Council discussed AECL's plans for the long-term management of its low and intermediate level waste. The Council asked to continue to be informed on AECL's work and has scheduled an update for its September meeting.

4. Program Updates

Staff are invited to provide the Council with updates on recent activities in NWMO's engagement and technical research programs.

Engagement and Social Research Update

Ms. Shaver reported that the discussion document containing the draft site selection process was completed and issued for public review at the beginning of May. She noted that the regional information sessions in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick will be completed by mid-June. In the coming months, NWMO will conduct multi-party dialogues and citizen dialogues focused in major population centres as well as Aboriginal dialogues in the four nuclear provinces.

Ms. Shaver provided an update on other areas of engagement including:

- NWMO's youth roundtable work to provide recommendations on how to engage young people;
- a range of community briefings which were delivered on request;
- plans for an upcoming municipal forum in May focusing on a facilitated discussion on the siting process and discussion of possible joint research at the community level. Council member, Eva Ligeti reported that she had attended the last municipal forum meeting and noted that the forum is working very well with good participation from municipal organizations;
- government briefings; and
- the summer Aboriginal Elders Forum which is scheduled from July 28-30 in New Brunswick.

Ms. Shaver invited NWMO colleagues to address specifics of the spring engagement activities. Jamie Robinson reported that the draft siting process was launched for public review on May 4, and was supported by the launch of NWMO's new website design. He noted that the Advisory Council comments had been addressed in updating and modernizing the website.

Mr. Robinson discussed the fourteen regional information sessions scheduled in the form of open houses. Exit surveys resulted in positive comments about the sessions, the information available and the quality of staff in attendance.

Jo-Ann Facella summarized the common questions being raised in the sessions which included questions about: community willingness; geology; safety; transportation; other options studied; and questions about which communities are being considered.

Pat Patton provided the Council with an update on plans for Aboriginal engagement. NWMO approached Aboriginal groups in the four nuclear provinces and asked them how best to engage people on a regional basis. NWMO has had a positive response to its

process and contracts will soon be signed for Aboriginal dialogues on the design of the siting process. Ms. Patton outlined the status of discussions in each province.

The Chairman invited Council discussion of the engagement report. Council members discussed the breadth of comments and questions tabled by dialogue participants. Council members were impressed by the range of questions raised in the public sessions. In response to Council questions, staff outlined the level of participation at the public sessions and described the distribution process for the discussion document. The Council asked to be provided with a copy of NWMO's updated DVD. It was noted that the NWMO DVD is currently in translation to 9 Aboriginal languages and will be available for use with and by Aboriginal groups.

Technical Research and Development Program Update

Mr. Sean Russell reported on developments in the APM technical program which included:

- the Underground Research Laboratory Shaft Seal Monitoring Project Meeting in Toronto;
- NWMO's hosting of an International Spent Fuel Workshop in Toronto;
- completion of a paper on the role of dissolved hydrogen on the corrosion/dissolution of spent nuclear fuel;
- completion of a summary of NWMO's technical R&D program, publishing of its 2008 annual report;
- a request for proposal issued to update the APM conceptual designs and cost updates; and,
- technical presentations to support engagement including invitations to speak at Lakehead and Carleton Universities and attendance at the Durham Nuclear Health Committee in Oshawa.

The Council discussed research being conducted in both sedimentary and crystalline rock. A Council member requested information on the scope of work for updating the conceptual design for different rock types and cost estimate for Adaptive Phased Management.

5. Youth Roundtable Report

The Chairman invited NWMO's Youth Roundtable to update the Council on their discussions and initial proposals for NWMO's future engagement of young people. Elena Mantagaris reported on the meetings of the Youth Roundtable and introduced the seven members (three internal NWMO staff and four external members) who were present. Robert Barnard from Decode provided a brief introduction on their work with the Youth Roundtable.

The youth presented a DVD featuring all of the members of the Youth Roundtable and produced by NWMO's Alejandro Covarrubias. The four external members of the youth roundtable provided a presentation and recommendations on areas including:

- methods for targeted communications and clear messaging; and
- ideas for engaging youth in and out of the education system.

The Council was invited to discuss the presentation with the Youth Roundtable members. Mr. Crombie thanked the youth for an excellent and impressive presentation. All Council members echoed Mr. Crombie's sentiments and commented on the quality of the content and the relevance of the recommendations.

6. Transportation of Radioactive Wastes

At the request of the Advisory Council, NWMO staff provided an information session to address the transportation of used nuclear fuel. Sean Russell discussed used fuel transportation covering the following topics:

- transportation regulations;
- radioactive material packages;
- package testing; and
- transportation experience.

Mr. Russell reported that used fuel transportation:

- has been routine practice internationally;
- is a safe and licensed process;
- has robust package designs based on international standards;
- has an excellent safety record over 45 years; and
- has had no significant impact on people or the environment.

In the lengthy discussion that ensued, Council members invited staff to elaborate on the experience in moving radioactive waste in Canada. Noting the strong safety record in other countries, Members asked about the experience in Canada and the safety record in moving radioactive waste and the likelihood of conventional traffic accidents. Members inquired as to federal and provincial authorities overseeing transportation of radioactive waste and the opportunities for public input in the future regulatory processes. Council members offered suggestions for elaborating the DVDs and presentations on transportation safety to communicate the strong safety record to date, the robustness of the transportation infrastructure and that there was no loss of containment following a series of rigorous tests on the containers.

In its discussion Council members emphasized that transportation will continue to be an issue at the forefront of public interest. Council anticipates that communities along the transportation corridors, as used fuel is moved to the repository, will be very engaged and will want to have their questions and concerns addressed. Council members urged NWMO to address transportation early in the process of identifying an informed, willing community for the used fuel repository.

Council members thanked staff for the presentation. On the request of members, the Chairman directed staff to include time on the September agenda for further in depth discussion of transportation.

7. Traditional Healing

At the request of the Advisory Council, Dr. Marlyn Cook provided a presentation on traditional healing entitled: Balancing Traditional and Western Medicine: Healing the Body, Mind and Spirit. Dr. Cook discussed some of the challenges facing Aboriginal communities in Canada. She also reviewed the final report (2005) of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and discussed some of the national approaches to healing and the importance of factors such as culture, history, spirituality and the traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms of communities. Dr. Cook emphasized that building healthy Aboriginal Communities also needs balance in body, mind and spirit and being at one with Mother Earth. Dr. Cook encouraged NWMO to interweave Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in its work and to be open to learning from this body of knowledge.

The Council Chair thanked Dr. Cook for her informative presentation.

8. Aboriginal Dimension of NWMO's Work

Further to the Council's March discussion on the Aboriginal dimension of NWMO's work, the Chairman invited Dr. Cameron to prepare a paper to foster continued Council discussion on this topic. Dr. Cameron provided his thoughts on the Aboriginal dimensions and the challenge of interweaving Aboriginal traditional knowledge into NWMO's work. Dr. Cameron notes that NWMO has already embraced some of the concepts of Aboriginal ways including:

- consideration of future generations and long time horizons in its plans;
- involvement of youth and elders;
- being distinctive in its openness by allowing for many voices;
- exploration of Aboriginal traditional knowledge;
- the pacing of its work; and
- the many opportunities for input and citizen involvement.

An NWMO staff member reported that she would be developing a summary which reflects on NWMO's work with Aboriginal people since its inception.

The Council had a lengthy discussion on the Aboriginal dimension of NWMO's work. A Council member suggested that NWMO and Aboriginal partners need to firmly grasp hands and continue on journey as it may become a template that is essential for future relationships between traditional cultures and Canadians. Another Council member suggested how NWMO might consider traditional lands.

The Council agreed that there was value in reflecting on NWMO's work to interweave Aboriginal ways. Mr. Crombie asked that Council review the staff's reflections before it considers this matter further.

9. In Camera meeting

Council members convened an in camera session during which Members identified a number of topics they wish to have discussed at the upcoming meeting in September.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held in Toronto on September 15, 2009 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The agenda will include discussion of the future initiation of the siting process and preparation of the upcoming triennial report, as well as topics identified by Council members for discussion.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:10 pm.

Dated the day of , 2009

Vice President, APM Public Engagement and Site Selection