

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: March 13, 2006 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 49 Jackes Avenue, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST. on March 13, 2006.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Fred Gilbert	Member
Eva Ligeti	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

NWMO:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President (except Item 7)
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary (except Item 7)
Jo-Ann Facella	(Items 4 and 5)
Pat Patton	(Item 5)

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

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

The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the Council meeting convened on December 2, 2005.

DISCUSSION WITH NWMO

3. Recent Engagement

The Chairman invited the President to report on the NWMO's recent engagement activities.

In the President's verbal report she reviewed NWMO's participation in a range of meetings:

- The Canadian Nuclear Association annual seminar in Ottawa, at which the NWMO Board Chairman delivered a speech (Copies of the speech were distributed to the Advisory Council.);
- The quarterly staff-level meeting with Natural Resources Canada, which included a review of legislative requirements concerning the future annual reports;
- A meeting with the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities, for a general update on NWMO's work; and
- The United Kingdom-Canada Nuclear Skills Workshop, arranged by the British High Commission.

It was reported that the NWMO continues to respond to requests to participate in university class discussions. Most recently, NWMO staff participated in sessions with:

- Engineering students at Carleton University; and
- An undergraduate class led by Dr. Andrew Baines at Victoria University (University of Toronto) on the subject of risk communication around nuclear issues.

Looking ahead, the NWMO noted upcoming conferences and meetings in which it would be participating:

- Radioactive Waste Management Committee of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, in March;
- International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference, in April;
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, as part of Canada's delegation that will be led by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, in May;
- International Association of Impact Assessment, in May;
- An international symposium exploring values, ethics and risk management (VALDOR), in May; and
- Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, in October, at which both a staff member (K. Shaver) and Advisory Council member (D. Lister) will be presenting. Dr. Lister confirmed that he would provide a draft of his paper for prior review by the Advisory Council before finalization.

The NWMO reported that it will continue to accept meetings upon request. In addition, the Annual Report, planned for public release and submission to the Minister in late March, will form an important component of NWMO's commitment to ongoing communication with the public.

Throughout the presentation, Council members engaged in discussion with the President. In addition to discussing these various meetings and engagement activities, Council members discussed the reaction to the NWMO Final Study to date.

Other items raised:

- Ms. Ligeti provided Council with copies of a March 2006 position paper of the report from the United Kingdom Sustainable Development Commission; and
- The NWMO President noted references to the NWMO's recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management in the United Kingdom Royal Society Report issued in early 2006.

4. Workplan

The President introduced the update on the NWMO's workplan, the purpose of which was to invite Council discussion and input on two specific areas of work under development. She noted that preliminary suggestions and direction from Council members were sought at this time to assist staff in refining the focus of these planned activities.

The Advisory Council welcomed Jo-Ann Facella, the NWMO staff member leading this work.

a) The first activity discussed with the Advisory Council related to a proposed review and analysis of NWMO's engagement processes to guide future work.

Ms. Facella described the NWMO's preliminary thinking on how the NWMO might approach the analysis of its past engagement processes and examine these activities from a range of perspectives. To support the organization's continuous learning, the NWMO sought to reflect back on the experience of its engagement processes adopted in the past. Such a review would be intended to assist the NWMO in its own thinking about practicable and important lessons, enlightened principles or guidance that would help to inform the NWMO's future engagement activities.

Following the presentation, the Chairman invited Council feedback and suggestions.

In discussing the objectives of this work, Council members expressed support for NWMO's proposal to reflect back on the experience of the various elements of the engagement process to date, in the spirit of continuous improvement and seeking to enhance process. Council members discussed at some length the way in which the findings of this review might be used.

- In analyzing the findings, Council proposed that the NWMO seek to draw out the more generic observations and principles that may be useful and relevant in shaping effective engagement in subsequent phases of implementation.
 - As an example, Council highlighted a prominent feature of the NWMO's past engagement that it felt should be carried forward and embedded in future engagement – specifically, the way in which NWMO structured its engagement in phases around each major component and decision-point in the process. NWMO's approach to proceeding in stages to lay out information, invite discussion, report back, and continue this cycle was seen as an effective way of ensuring meaningful and ongoing public contributions to the broader study process. Going forward, Council advised NWMO to continue to identify key components of decision-making so that dialogue and work may proceed in phases, following past practice.

- Council urged the NWMO to focus particularly on the lessons which are relevant for the future activities. Members noted that the next phases of NWMO's engagement activities will need to be tailored appropriately to support the more specific issues involved in addressing the sequence of siting and other implementation activities. In light of the evolving focus and objectives of NWMO's implementation activities, Council cautioned that there may be limited application of some of the "lessons learned" from the engagement mechanisms employed in NWMO's last phase of public dialogue.

- Council suggested that an important outcome of this staff work may be to advance the NWMO's consideration of the types of relationships that the organization is seeking to establish with communities of interest for the future collaborative development of plans, decision-making and implementation. Having an understanding of the types of relationships that NWMO will seek, before designing and initiating the next phase of engagement, will be essential.

- NWMO was encouraged to broaden the focus beyond an examination of how well its engagement initiatives aligned with the initial *activities planned* at the outset of the study, to also consider the degree to which the initiatives undertaken achieved the *objectives* and original intentions articulated for the study.

Members emphasized the importance of considering input and comment from a range of participants who may have observed NWMO's engagement from different perspectives. Council members inquired as to how the NWMO might collect feedback from past dialogue participants. In responding, staff noted that the NWMO would have access to participant comments collected through a number of means in the course of NWMO's three-year study, and that all of such information would be reviewed in the course of undertaking this project. A number of examples were provided by NWMO staff:

- The NWMO had regularly invited comments from participants as part of the delivery of the various dialogue initiatives, to understand participant perspectives on the process.
- Input from the public had been invited throughout the stages of the NWMO study. At each point, this input served to guide the design of dialogue activities. For example, in NWMO's early phase of "Conversations about Expectations" and the nation-wide quantitative polling which followed this phase, specific direction was provided by

respondents on desired elements of a study process. In reviewing the effectiveness of the engagement activities, the NWMO would review achievements against these criteria.

- The comments of participants about the process, captured in dialogue reports, will also be reviewed as will comments made through submissions and correspondence.
- The NWMO could seek comments from the service providers that facilitated sessions, for their observations on participants' experience with the process.

General discussion took place on terminology, and the different perceptions and interpretations of "engagement" and "consultation". For example, the NWMO noted that it had adopted the terminology of "engagement" in its past three-year study, to reflect the organization's desire to initiate sustained two-way dialogue that would form the foundation for long-term relationships. It was noted that the terms "consultation" and "engagement" will have different meanings and interpretations with different communities of interest, especially Aboriginal peoples, and that NWMO will need to be very sensitive to and respect such interpretations, understandings and expectations that people assign to these activities as NWMO designs its next phases of work.

The President thanked the Council for its input, and noted that comments would be integrated into the refinement of staff plans for this review. The Council concurred with the President's proposal that a more in-depth discussion of the project be included in the agenda of an upcoming Council meeting at which time staff could bring forward preliminary findings from this work.

b) The second project area discussed with Council concerned a series of case studies and literature reviews planned by NWMO to assist in informing the design of NWMO's future implementation plans and the collaborative development of a siting process, following a government decision. The President noted that this proposed activity was designed to build upon the case studies conducted earlier for NWMO.

Ms. Facella presented an overview of this proposed scope of work. The case studies are proposed to explore experiences with engagement of stakeholders, experts and other communities of interest. As part of the study, lessons could be learned about incorporating traditional knowledge of potentially impacted Aboriginal peoples. In addition, the studies might illuminate experiences with assessment and communication of risk, as well as approaches for engaging local communities and building capacity and informed, effective local involvement. The NWMO is interested in learning from the experiences of the nuclear sector as well as other large resource projects. It was suggested that it may be interesting to examine some case studies from Canada, as well as some international experiences. Through literature reviews, the NWMO would seek to draw out insights and lessons learned as identified through a rich base of international collaborative social science research initiatives.

The Chairman thanked staff for the presentation and opened up the meeting for discussion. The NWMO invited Council's advice on the selection of case studies to be reviewed.

Council members proposed that valuable insights may be gained on models involving local communities, stakeholders and Aboriginal peoples by reviewing the experiences in a range of projects, such as land-use planning exercises, decommissioning of mines and projects involving co-management with local communities of interest. It was suggested that NWMO may wish to research some processes that involved issues of transportation

of hazardous material. It was noted that there may be some important insights to be learned from both successful experiences and those which confronted challenges and did not proceed as originally planned.

While recognizing that processes must be tailored to be responsive to each jurisdiction's social and cultural foundation, Council concurred that it would be informative to learn from experiences within Canada as well as in some other jurisdictions. Council members emphasized that NWMO's review of project processes across sectors and jurisdictions should be understood in light of the broader economic, social, cultural and political contexts of the respective jurisdictions in which they unfolded. Experiences will be shaped also by the scope and nature of the nuclear fuel cycle resident within the jurisdiction under study. For this reason, it would be essential for case studies to make explicit at the outset any particularly relevant social, policy and regulatory underpinnings that may have affected the experience.

The President expressed NWMO's appreciation for the suggestions advanced by the Advisory Council. The comments would be taken into account in refining the project dimensions and confirming the list of case studies. The NWMO undertook to keep the Advisory Council updated on the progress of this work.

5. Update on Aboriginal Engagement

The President introduced this agenda item concerning some of NWMO's recent and planned activities:

- The NWMO continues to accept meetings upon request.
- NWMO staff member, Pat Patton, debriefed the Advisory Council on a meeting recently attended by NWMO staff at the invitation of the Sakitawak Métis Nation in Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. The Sakitawak Métis Society invited a wide spectrum of participants. Participants included Elders and representatives from resource management and development organizations, the Aboriginal Women's Association, the Indigenous Healing Centre, the Sakitawak Métis Nation, the Youth Council and community members. The subject of this meeting was to discuss the nature of community wellness and how to develop community capacity to respond to issues that arise, ensuring that development is in keeping with the aspirations of the community. NWMO staff attended as observers.
- The Executive Summary of the NWMO's Final Study has been translated into three Aboriginal languages - Cree, Ojibway and Ojicree. These translations are currently available on the NWMO website. The NWMO is arranging for translations into additional Aboriginal languages, all of which will be posted on the NWMO website once complete. The Advisory Council complimented the NWMO on this translation initiative.
- The NWMO is planning to convene some issue table discussions to support its exploration of selected topical issues relating to implementation. At the invitation of the Chairman, Council members engaged in preliminary discussion with NWMO on these activities.

The President noted that as specific activities become more fully scoped the NWMO would look forward to opportunities for detailed review and discussion of the proposals and planning details with the Advisory Council's Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Engagement. The Chairman requested that the Secretary confirm a time for the next Sub-Committee meeting, and extended the invitation to participate in the next Sub-Committee meeting to other interested Council members.

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

6. 2006 Meeting Calendar

The Advisory Council confirmed additional meeting dates for 2006:

- May 8th
- September 21st
- November 23rd.

In addition, conference calls will be scheduled as may be required through the year.

NWMO staff and management withdrew from the meeting

7. In Camera Session

The Advisory Council convened a private session without the presence of NWMO.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

Dated the 8th day of May, 2006

Corporate Secretary