**Record 2005-07**

Advisory Council to the

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

# Record of Discussion: July 20, 2005 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 8:30 a.m. EST. on July 20, 2005.

Present

Advisory Council:

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| 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:

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| Elizabeth Dowdeswell | President (Items 1-2, 4-8) |
| Kathryn Shaver | Corporate Secretary (Items 1-2, 4-8) |
| Jo-Ann Facella | NWMO Advisor (Item 4) |

NWMO Board of Directors:

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| Ken Nash | (Items 4-5) |
| Fred Long | (Items 4-5) |
| Adèle Malo | (Items 4-5) |
| Michel Rhéaume | (Items 4-5) |

Guest presenters from Navigator: (via conference call)

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| Jamie Watt | (Item 4) |
| Anthony Jonker | (Item 4) |

***PART I***

***ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS***

1. **Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the Council meeting convened on June 20th, 2005.

*NWMO management withdrew from the meeting.*

***PART II***

***IN CAMERA ADVISORY COUNCIL SESSION – REPORT PREPARATION***

**3. Draft Study Report**

The Advisory Council met privately to work on the drafting of its independent comments, as required under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

***PART III***

***JOINT SESSION***
***OF COUNCIL WITH***
***NWMO BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

*NWMO management rejoined the meeting.*
*The NMWO Board of Directors joined the meeting.*

4. **Debrief from Focus Groups**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Jamie Watt and Mr. Anthony Jonker from the public opinion research firm, Navigator.

The President provided introductory context to this agenda item. She noted, as part of NWMO's continuing public opinion research, the organization had commissioned Navigator to conduct qualitative research through focus groups, as a means of inviting

comment on the NWMO's draft recommendation, outlined in the NWMO's 2005 Draft Study Report.

The purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity for the Advisory Council and Board of Directors to be briefed on the public opinion research under way, and to be provided with an interim report on the nature of feedback being received on the draft recommendation through these focus group discussions.

Mr. Watt outlined the research objectives and methodology adopted for the focus groups:

- 24 focus groups are being convened, each focus group being of two-hours duration, reaching out to 200-240 participants in total;
- Participants were recruited through the random digit dialing technique;
- Two focus groups are being convened in each of the following locations: Saint John, Fredericton, Trois-Rivières, Montreal, London, Pickering, Toronto, Kingston, Sudbury, Kenora, Regina and Saskatoon.
- Using the Executive Summary to the Draft Study Report as the basis for discussion, the focus groups explore the key question: "Is the draft recommendation appropriate and reasonable for Canadians?". The focus group discussions also explore issues related to implementing the management approach.

Mr. Watt provided some interim findings, based on the 18 focus groups conducted to date. Discussion ensued with Mr. Watt, as members of the Advisory Council and Board of Directors sought clarification and elaboration on the process and the nature of comments and issues raised by focus group participants.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Watt for the presentation.

*Mr. Watt and Mr. Jonker withdrew from the meeting.*

## 5. Advisory Council Update

As part of the joint session with the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council provided Board members with a status update on Council's preparation of independent comments on the NWMO study.

The Council reported that it has been convening private sessions for the purpose of drafting its comments on the management approaches and the NWMO study, in fulfilling its obligations under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

The NWMO reviewed some of the milestone timelines associated with preparing the final study for submission to government.

General discussion followed, as Council and Board members reflected on comments arising through the public review of the NWMO's Draft Study Report. Council reviewed with the Board some areas of the Draft Study Report that it felt might benefit from clarification and/or elaboration.

*The NWMO Board withdrew from the meeting.*

## *PART IV*

## *RESPONSE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL REQUESTS*

### 6. Engagement

Further to the Council's desire to receive regular briefings on the public commentary received through the public engagement activities, the President reviewed the discussions convened through various engagement activities initiated to invite comment the NWMO's Draft Study Report.

The President elaborated on the NWMO's dialogue with Aboriginal Peoples, highlighting activities since the Council's June meeting.

- Taking into account the suggestions of the Advisory Council, plans have been finalized for the NWMO Elders' Forum, scheduled for August 25-27, 2005 in Ottawa.
- The NWMO will convene a workshop as part of a Youth Wellness Conference in Northern Saskatchewan in early August. This will provide an opportunity for the NWMO to invite discussion and comment on the Draft Study Report.

The President reviewed the structure of the facilitated dialogues with members of the public and other communities of interest that have participated in the NWMO study. These dialogues were convened in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

- She highlighted the areas of public discussion, and points of clarification sought in each of the individual dialogues.
- A final report is being prepared that will be shared with the Advisory Council and posted on the NWMO website.

The Chairman thanked the President for her update, and invited general discussion and questions from the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council members who attended the NWMO dialogues provided their comments and observations on the dialogues that they had observed, commenting on the process and the breadth of discussion which took place. Noting the range of viewpoints provided through the dialogues, Council members expressed their hopes that the summary reports prepared from each dialogue would capture the full range of perspectives tabled.

### 7. Issues Raised by the Advisory Council

In responding to the Advisory Council's requests for further information and clarifications, the President reported on a number of matters:

- Additional information on legislative provisions for nuclear liability;

- Reports on the costing of the recommended management approach;

- How the NWMO intends to respond to the Advisory Council's suggestions for elaboration in the study on:

- How the NWMO incorporated the advice and counsel of the Roundtable on Ethics into the study;
- The nature of the hazard, particularly concerning the linear-no- threshold hypothesis;
- The rationale underpinning NWMO's decision to cite Ordovician sedimentary rock as potentially suitable geology for a deep repository;
- The replicability and robustness of the assessment conducted by the NWMO Assessment Team; and
- How the NWMO factored into its study the notion of "social safety".

**8. Meeting Dates**

In addition to the Council sessions previously scheduled for August 5th and 19th, the Chairman confirmed that a meeting would be convened on September 15th, from 1 pm – 6 pm.

*NWMO management withdrew from the meeting.*

***PART V***
***ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS - IN CAMERA***

**9. In Camera Session**

The Council resumed its private meeting, without the presence of NWMO management.

**Termination of Meeting**

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

**Other**

NWMO management convened a dinner meeting with the Advisory Council and the NWMO Board of Directors during which the Advisory Council and Board paid tribute to Richard Dicerni, the former NWMO Chairman.

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Dated the 15th day of September, 2005
Corporate Secretary