

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: March 7, 2011 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 March 7, 2011

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie                      Council Chairman  
David Cameron  
Fred Gilbert  
Rudyard Griffiths  
Eva Ligeti  
Dougal McCreath  
Derek Lister  
Michel Rhéaume

Regrets:

Marlyn Cook  
Donald Obonsawin

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash                      President & CEO  
Kathryn Shaver              VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection  
Gillian Morris                Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Jo-Ann Facella                Director, Social Research & Dialogue  
Frank King                    VP & Chief Engineer  
Elena Mantagaris            Manager, Government & External Relations  
Pat Patton                    Director, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations  
Ian Pritchard                 VP, Design & Construction  
Jamie Robinson              Director, Communications  
Sean Russell                 Director, Repository Engineering  
Peter Simmons                Director, Municipal Engagement

**ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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

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

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the previous meeting, convened on December 1, 2010.

**3. President's Report**

- a) The President reported on recent activities in NWMO's work programs. He provided a high level overview of developments in the site selection process and in the external landscape.

Mr. Nash reported on the following items:

- work on the conceptual design of the APM DGR in crystalline rock in addition to the design work for sedimentary rock;
- work underway to update cost estimates for both sedimentary and crystalline rock designs;
- early engagement of communities in learning more about the APM site selection process;
- the transportation work program and outreach plan;
- developments on nuclear waste management in Canada and internationally, including the public review panel planned for OPG's Low & Intermediate Level Waste Deep Geological Repository and Darlington new nuclear build public hearings in March;
- NWMO's triennial report, nearing completion and for submission toward the end of March to the Minister of Natural Resources; and
- NWMO staffing.

The Council Chairman invited discussion on Mr. Nash's report. In the discussion that followed, Council asked about whether market trends for copper and other materials would have material impacts on the APM program cost. Mr. Nash undertook to arrange a briefing for Council on the cost estimating work at an upcoming meeting. Council members discussed the APM site selection process.

- b) At the request of the Council Chairman, Mr. Nash addressed Council's earlier recommendation concerning its advisory mandate as it may relate to NWMO's work on OPG's Low & Intermediate Level (L&ILW) Deep Geological Repository (DGR).

Mr. Nash acknowledged the concerns and recommendations raised in December by the Council related to NWMO's involvement in the work on OPG's L&ILW DGR. Council had noted that the public does not distinguish between different forms of radioactive waste and that the impact of the work on OPG's L&ILW DGR could have impacts on NWMO's APM project. Council also noted that NWMO's work on the OPG DGR will expand in the coming years and Council would like to see the work executed consistently with NWMO's broader principles and approach. As such the Council would like to provide ongoing advice in relation to the NWMO's work on the OPG L&ILW DGR as it may affect the APM program.

As context, Mr. Nash reviewed that the role of the Advisory Council is defined under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* and is to provide comments for inclusion in NWMO's triennial reports submitted to the government of Canada. Under its Terms of Reference, the Council also provides advice and general guidance to NWMO. Mr. Nash reviewed the governance model for the OPG DGR outlining the agreements that define how NWMO provides services to OPG.

In response to the Council's recommendations,

- the NWMO committed to provide more extensive briefings to the Council on the work related to OPG's L&ILW DGR with recognition that significant decisions will not be made by OPG prior to consideration of the Council's advice on the extent to which these decisions may impact APM.
- NWMO also will work to clarify in public communications the nature of technical support being provided by NWMO to OPG's project.

Council members discussed NWMO's response. Questions were asked regarding roles and responsibilities on the OPG DGR work related to engagement of Aboriginal people (NWMO clarified this work is being led by OPG), and NWMO's role in the upcoming panel review, and communications on the project.

Council members expressed their appreciation for NWMO reviewing and responding to this issue.

In preparing for future review and advice on NWMO's work on the OPG project, Council initiated discussion on elements of the project they might review. Members were interested in reviewing the nature of issues and questions raised by the public in the course of the public review process. With regard to management of contracted firms for NWMO's technical support to the OPG project, council emphasized the importance of ensuring strong coordination of all contractors. NWMO confirmed it had a process in place to provide this type of coordination.

## ***NWMO SUPPORT TO OTHER PROJECTS***

### **4. Review of NWMO Support to OPG L&ILW DGR**

As requested by Council, Ian Pritchard, Frank King and Angelo Castellan provided an in-depth update on recent and planned activities at NWMO in support of OPG's L&ILW DGR Project.

- Frank King discussed progress in the regulatory approvals phase. Mr. King reported that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Preliminary Safety Report and all supporting reports have been finalized and provided to OPG in preparation for a March 2011 submission to the CNSC Joint Review Panel. Mr. King provided the Council with an overview of the EIS submission, review and hearing process.
- Angelo Castellan reported on engagement activities related to the OPG L&ILW DGR which included meetings with community councils, NGO's and Aboriginal organizations associated with the project.
- Ian Pritchard discussed the progress in preparing for the design and construction phase of the project. He reported on the health and safety record and the development of a comprehensive health and safety program for the upcoming fieldwork. He also reviewed the work underway on detailed engineering and the field program.

Council members discussed the report and asked questions regarding the:

- possible relevance for this project of knowledge gained from the work on the OPG Niagara tunnel;
- containers for the low and intermediate level waste;

- retrievability, decommissioning plans and closure for the OPG L&ILW DGR; and
- Environmental Impact Statement documents and plans for submission.

Council members raised questions for clarification on the regulatory process and decision-making roadmap. Members asked that they be provided with access to the electronic documents when available for this project.

## **APM IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5. APM Site Selection Process**

The Advisory Council received an update on the APM site selection process which touched on the status of community-led activities, the external landscape and workplans for 2011.

Ms. Shaver provided an update on the process, noting the activities under way with the communities engaged in the Learn More phase.

Ms. Facella highlighted the range of learning opportunities offered by NWMO to interested communities. She discussed community visioning exercises in which community members may reflect upon the community's own long-term vision and aspirations for the future, before considering whether APM may be a project that aligns with their long-term plans. Communities are also building their capacity through briefings from staff of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Communities also have the option of conducting third-party reviews of safety-related documents. Learning about other international waste management experiences is also being explored as well as opportunities for communities to take part in municipal conferences.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the range of activities being discussed by communities to engage community members in discussion of the APM project.

Ms. Patton provided an update to the Council on activities in the interested communities of Pinehouse and English River, noting involvement of band and northern village councils and youth. She outlined upcoming open houses and the translation of a number of NWMO materials into several Aboriginal languages. As communities engage to Learn More, NWMO has begun the process of writing to inform First Nations and Métis communities in nearby areas to advise them of the nearby communities' interest in APM.

Ms. Mantagaris updated the Advisory Council on work underway in government relations which has been focusing on understanding of the APM site selection process, potential involvement of crown land, and transportation aspects related to APM.

Ms. Shaver presented the proposed focus for 2011 site selection activities. NWMO will continue to support communities as they deepen their understanding of the APM project and engage citizens in surrounding communities as they explore interest and ask questions about the project. The organization will arrange for initial screenings to evaluate potential site suitability upon request of communities; and work at developing strong foundations for the feasibility study phase, to support initiation of feasibility studies in collaboration with communities that may wish to move into that phase in 2012.

The Advisory Council Chairman invited Council members to discuss the presentations. During the discussion period, Council members sought clarification on:

- the nature of initial screenings;
- the potential for involvement of Crown land in the site selection process;
- the communities involved in learning more;
- the involvement of municipal associations;
- whether NWMO has considered other international models for community well-being; and
- work on transportation and outreach to regional stakeholders.

Council members expressed support for NWMO's approach to siting, and support for the roles for third party reviews and independent experts. For institutional continuity, Council members recommended that where possible, community delegations involved in Learn More activities should include members who are not elected officials in addition to councilors or Mayors that are participating. At Council's request, staff confirmed that the topic of feasibility studies would be added to the next meeting's agenda.

## **6. Re-Development of the Elders Forum**

In conjunction with members of the Elders Forum and further to the request of the Advisory Council, NWMO brought forward a proposed plan for reviewing the operations of the Elders Forum to support NWMO's future phases of work.

As context, it was noted that as the NWMO prepared for and initiated the site selection process, the Elders Forum, the NWMO and the Advisory Council had agreed it was an appropriate point in time for reflecting on the structure and role of the Elders Forum for the next phase of NWMO's work. It was noted that a similar review would be undertaken for the Municipal Forum and Advisory Council operations and membership.

Pat Patton outlined a proposed way forward for reviewing and redeveloping the NWMO Elders Forum over the course of 2011 through engagement with Aboriginal organizations, the Elders Forum and others. Ms. Patton reported that a group of Elders from the Elders Forum had met to give consideration to how this review might be undertaken. She also reported on a meeting with some members of the Elders Forum, Board of Directors and Advisory Council to discuss a draft plan for 2011. Ms. Patton outlined for the Advisory Council the elements of that plan that had been discussed to provide for discussion and consultation on the terms of reference for the next phase of the Elders Forum operation.

Council members supported this review process. They suggested that as part of this review, it would be important to also review the method and basis by which youth members were appointed to the Forum. A Council member requested that the discussion document for this review should include an introductory section explaining the purpose of the review of the Elders Forum terms of reference at this time to clarify NWMO is ensuring appropriate membership and focus will be provided to support the site selection process now under way.

NWMO proposed to update the Advisory Council on the input received at a Council meeting in the Fall. Staff noted that the annual meeting of the Elders Forum would proceed in 2011 with the redevelopment of the Forum one of the key topics for discussion with Elders.

## **7. APM Technical Program – NWMO Disposition of ITRG Comments**

The Advisory Council received a report on how the NWMO had dispositioned the recommendations of the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG), presented to Council on December 1, 2010. Mr. Russell presented NWMO's disposition of the comments and recommendations made in that report. He reported that NWMO had accepted all of the recommendations made by the ITRG and had action plans in place to address each item.

The Advisory Council discussed NWMO's response to the ITRG. Council members discussed whether NWMO will have conducted enough detailed design work on the repository when the number of communities is eventually narrowed down and whether there is a need to identify any limits to a particular design. Council members also discussed container design and materials under consideration for inner and outer components of the containers.

Council members emphasized the close linkages between selection of a site for the APM repository and the specific design features of the repository. Noting that decision-making on engineering design features and materials must take into account the specific geology in which the repository will be situated, the Council emphasized the need for harmonization of workplans for site selection and engineering design work.

## **8. 2011 Communications Strategy**

Further to the Advisory Council's request at its previous meeting, NWMO brought forward a proposed communications strategy for 2011 that would take into account the evolving external landscape in which NWMO is operating.

Jamie Robinson presented the proposed Communications Strategy for 2011, noting how comments provided by the Council at a previous meeting had been dispositioned. Mr. Robinson noted that there had been a shift in the external landscape with considerable media coverage on the transportation of the Bruce steam generators and recent activities in Port Hope.

Mr. Robinson reported on the range of media and communication approaches planned for continuing to build awareness of the APM project, expanding informational and educational materials, DVDs and exhibits, and continuing to make NWMO's work widely available and transparent. NWMO plans to continue to identify opportunities to brief editorial boards and implement an earned media plan. In 2011 the organization will consider an appropriate plan for expanding its social media activities.

Council members were invited to discuss the draft strategy. Members were in general agreement with the directions in the proposed plan. Changes were proposed in a number of sections for greater clarity on key messages around APM. Members discussed the importance of clarifying the primary messages around safety. Members emphasized the importance of underscoring safety will be a priority, site selection will be guided by strict safety criteria and that NWMO's work will focus on ensuring that the APM project can be safely implemented. Staff undertook to address these proposed changes in the refinement of the communications plan. Council emphasized the importance of NWMO continuing to report transparently to all as its work proceeds, carrying forward its practices from earlier years. Council offered additional suggestions

for building awareness of NWMO, including the potential for segments on TVO or other outlets that cover national public interest and public policy issues.

## **9. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is Monday, May 9 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT.

The Council discussed its annual letter to the Minister of Natural Resources. Council agreed on the content and approach for the letter to which would be appended a copy of the Advisory Council's independent comments on NWMO's work, also included in the triennial report.

### ***IN CAMERA SESSION***

It was determined that an *in camera* session was not necessary.

## **Termination of Meeting**

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 1:45 pm.

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Dated the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011

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Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection