



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Research Support Program – Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences

OCTOBER 2011



Purpose

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) encourages any community, interested individual or group to contribute to shaping the knowledge platform on which the Adaptive Phased Management project will proceed. Research proposals that contribute to building understanding of important issues related to the site selection process, and that are general in nature rather than site-specific, will be considered.

Background

The NWMO is responsible for implementing Canada's plan for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel produced by Canada's nuclear reactors. The plan is called Adaptive Phased Management, and it ensures that the generations that benefit from nuclear energy will have a plan in place for the responsible care of the used fuel arising from electricity production, ensuring long-term safety and security. Adaptive Phased Management is both a technical method and a management system. It is the approach that emerged following the NWMO's three-year national dialogue with citizens, specialists and Aboriginal peoples. It has as its end point the containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository constructed in a suitable rock formation. It was developed in dialogue with Canadians and chosen as Canada's approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel by the Government of Canada in June 2007.

The NWMO worked collaboratively with interested organizations and individuals to design a fair and appropriate process for identifying an informed and willing community to host the deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel over a two year period (2008–2009). This process is outlined in *Moving Forward Together: Process for Selecting a Site for Canada's Deep Geological Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel*. In May 2010 the NWMO initiated this community-driven process. We anticipate that over the course of implementing the site selection process, there will be opportunities to learn along the way and incorporate this learning in the implementation of the process. This *Research Support Program* is designed to help facilitate continuous learning.

Program Description

Research proposals that contribute to building understanding of important issues that will need to be addressed in the implementation of the site selection process, as described in *Moving Forward Together: Process for Selecting a Site for Canada's Deep Geological Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel*, will be considered. Once complete, the research will be published on the NWMO website.

Important notes about the program include:

- » The proposed research must be general in nature rather than site-specific, and amenable to completion through desktop research and/or literature review.
- » The proposed research must materially contribute to the information platform for the site selection process. The proposed research must not duplicate research commissioned by the NWMO that is published on its website or is in progress.
- » This program is open to communities, interested individuals and groups. Parties that are for-profit or have a direct commercial interest in the project are ineligible for this program.
- » The proposed research must be completed by qualified individuals with demonstrated knowledge and expertise in the research area.
- » Proposals of \$10,000 or less will be considered; a maximum of one proposal will be accepted per applicant per year. Proposals of larger value will be considered on an exception basis.
- » In order to be eligible for funding in the 2011 calendar year, proposals must be received by November 30, 2011. Exceptions will be considered upon request. Proposals must be a maximum of 15 pages excluding attachments, and must clearly describe the work being proposed and its anticipated material contribution to the NWMO's information platform for the site selection process.
- » Research proposals will be reviewed by a funding review committee for: material contribution to the knowledge platform on which the NWMO project will proceed; qualifications of researchers identified to complete the work; and appropriate scoping of the work and work plan.

Further Support

This *Research Support Program* makes available resources and is designed to support a community, interested individual or group to contribute to shaping the knowledge platform on which this project will proceed.

The NWMO also encourages interested individuals, organizations and communities to learn more about Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel, the activities of the NWMO, and the process the NWMO will use to select an informed and willing community to host this project. For details of program offerings in this area, please review our *Learn More Program*.

Note that NWMO program offerings are expected to evolve as the site selection process unfolds. We encourage those interested to periodically review program offerings.

For more information about this program or to request an application, please contact:

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