

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 5, 2012 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. EDT on June 5, 2012

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Wesley Cragg
Fred Gilbert
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Donald Obonsawin
Michel Rhéaume

NWMO Staff Present:

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

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Chris Hatton Director, APM Repository Design & Development (Item 8)
Janice Hudson Senior Advisor, Used Fuel Transportation (Item 8)
Mike Krizanc Acting Director of Strategic Communications
Elena Mantagaris Manager, Government & External Relations
Pat Patton Director, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations
Ron Ross Manager, Used Fuel Transportation (Item 8)
Sean Russell Director, APM Repository Research and Development
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations (Via conference call for
Items 9-10)

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 February 6, 2012.

Council members emphasized the value of sharing the positive experiences of the communities involved in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) with the communities in the NWMO siting process. NWMO was urged to seek opportunities for further learning from the WIPP program. Ms. Shaver reported that NWMO would give this additional consideration once communities are further along in the process. She noted that a representative from New Mexico will be discussing the experience of WIPP at the International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR) in September 2012. Ms. Shaver offered to share the NWMO staff summary on observations from WIPP. (*)

UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

Ken Nash provided the Council with an overview of NWMO's ongoing activities discussing:

- meetings with Ontario and Saskatchewan provincial governments on issues such as crown land, transportation, Aboriginal relations and duty to consult;
- work on transportation-related work including a federal-provincial working group on transportation and preparation of communication materials;
- continued work in the area of Aboriginal relations and the reformation of the Council of Elders;
- the Site Selection process in which 22 communities are engaged in the learning phase;
- the technical aspects of the feasibility studies which are progressing well;
- the submissions to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on the pre-project review of the safety cases;
- the work on the logistics study which is reviewing the various options for moving the used fuel;
- the work on optimizing container sizing and repository design;
- additional technical work on sedimentary rock formations with the addition of several communities which have this type of rock;
- work on the OPG L&ILW DGR and the progression of the work of the Joint Review Panel;
- on Canada's national nuclear scene, NRCAN has initiated requests for expressions of interest in AECL's remaining businesses;
- internationally Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, France and the U.K. are all moving forward with their high level waste management programs;

- NWMO is monitoring Canada's participation as one of 31 countries that has joined the International Framework for Nuclear Cooperation (formerly GNEP) initiated by the U.S.; and
- preparations continue to proceed well for the ICGR conference which NWMO is co-hosting in Toronto at the end of September 2012.

Mr. Nash reviewed the targeted timelines for siting and discussed the challenges and the importance of ensuring Aboriginal communities surrounding the prospective sites are involved in the process.

Advisory Council members discussed:

- the timeframes for the Joint Review Panel process for the OPG L&ILW DGR and possible impacts of changes in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act;
- AECL's plans for its legacy waste; and
- government plans for a national energy policy. Council expressed interest in this topic as it was addressed several times by the Advisory Council in its reports.

A Council member requested a list of members of NWMO's Geoscience Review Group. (*) Council members made a request for all members to attend the International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR) being co-hosted by NWMO in Toronto in Fall 2012. (*)

4. APM Program Overview and Risk Assessment

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management highlighted key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation. Ms. Shaver noted that the risk report had been updated based on Council feedback at the last meeting. Sean Russell discussed the risks related to the APM technical program.

Council members discussed planning for the field investigations in the feasibility studies phase of the APM site selection process. Council also suggested that AECL's planning on a potential Chalk River DGR continues to present an ongoing risk for NWMO.

5. NWMO Review of Impacts of Fukushima

Further to Council's request, management reported on its review of lessons learned from Fukushima, with regard to the APM program. NWMO intends to refine "lessons learned" work following Council feedback, further to a commitment NWMO made to report out on its reflections.

Council had a lengthy discussion on the topic, focused primarily on how best to communicate NWMO's findings in plain language for a general audience. Technical clarifications were requested: Council suggested NWMO provide further clarity on the differences between an operating nuclear plant and the complicating conditions at Fukushima, as distinguished from the operations of a DGR, noting the DGR's role is to ensure ongoing long-term safe management of used fuel. Council felt that the technical findings could be better contextualized with reference to NWMO's management approach. More broadly, Council urged management to consider opportunities in this and other documents to capture the NWMO management approach and values.

6. Advisory Council Communications

At the last Council meeting, Council proposed that NWMO explore opportunities to more broadly communicate what Council felt was NWMO's innovative approach to public engagement and work with communities.

Council members suggested as first step that NWMO invite a U.S. perspective on the Canadian program, in light of the recent release of the U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission report on America's Nuclear Future. The Commission had given careful consideration to international programs, including a detailed review of the APM program in Canada. At the suggestion of Council, NWMO invited Tom Isaacs to prepare an article. Mr. Isaacs was Lead Advisor to the U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission.

7. APM Site Selection Process

The Advisory Council was briefed on the APM Site Selection Process. Kathryn Shaver discussed the recent announcement suspending the expressions of interest phase of the siting process as of September 30, 2012. She reported that the announcement has been positively received.

Ms. Shaver reported that there were 22 communities currently in various phases of the siting process. Additional staff have been hired to assist with the work in the communities. NWMO staff provided detailed updates on the work taking place in each of the communities engaged in the process.

Council members discussed whether NWMO was approaching the siting process from a regional perspective with a number of communities in close proximity to each other. Council had a lengthy discussion about the communities in the process. Council members asked questions about recent staff hires and their roles in working with the communities in the siting process.

8. Transportation in the APM Program

Ken Nash introduced Janice Hudson, Senior Advisor on Used Fuel Transportation and Ron Ross, Manager of Used Fuel Transportation who recently joined NWMO both having a wealth of experience in moving radioactive materials.

Chris Hatton and Janice Hudson discussed:

- the APM transportation system;
- types of used fuel packaging for transport;
- used nuclear fuel transport experience;
- the transportation components in the feasibility studies;
- the transportation studies underway on:
 - comparison of international practices
 - acquisition and re-certification of irradiated fuel transport cask
 - logistics study; and
 - generic transportation dose assessments;
- emergency response and security; and
- public communication on safe transportation of used nuclear fuel.

Council members discussed possible modes of transportation (road, rail and water). Mr. Nash noted that transportation methods will be discussed with the communities in the

feasibility studies phase. A Council member encouraged NWMO to make available to public audiences the video demonstrating container robustness through various tests including a train collision which demonstrate the container's strength and safety.

Council members were asked to provide feedback on a first draft of the transportation booklet that is under development for publication by Fall 2012. Several Council members provided specific feedback on the draft transportation booklet. Further to the Advisory Council suggestions, the booklet will be refined and the revised draft reviewed with NWMO's Federal/Provincial Working Group on Transportation at its June meeting. This group includes Transport Canada, the CNSC and provincial transportation ministries.

9. External Landscape and Risk Management

Staff highlighted activities under way to build relationships in support of siting and manage risks in the external landscape.

Elena Mantagaris reviewed NWMO's work with provincial governments in Ontario and Saskatchewan, and the upcoming meeting on transportation.

Jo-Ann Facella reported on the upcoming meeting of the Municipal Forum and the activity of engaged interest groups in the various communities in the siting process. Council discussed the evolving landscape in which NWMO is operating, with polarizing positions being taken and attempts to discredit NWMO.

Mike Krizanc discussed the recent media coverage of NWMO noting there had been 170 stories with an analysis showing that a majority were either neutral or positive. Site tours of waste management facilities have been given to the media from the communities in the siting process.

It was reported that NWMO participated in the IAEA Fourth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Pat Patton and Robert Watts reviewed progress on NWMO's Aboriginal engagement. As communities move into Step 3 of the Siting process, more detailed letters have been mailed to Aboriginal groups in the surrounding areas of the site communities. NWMO will be meeting with the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum. Management reviewed with the Advisory Council the responses to date from Aboriginal communities. NWMO is inviting communities to meet to learn about the project and inform themselves on the project. It was noted that many Aboriginal groups have declined to meet.

Management invited Council to advise if there were additional approaches to outreach to be adopted.

Council members had a lengthy discussion on NWMO's Aboriginal engagement program:

- members suggested reaching out to the breadth of respected leaders in the community in offering opportunities for learning and conversation;
- Council emphasized that strong candidate host communities will demonstrate their commitment to reaching out and actively involving Aboriginal groups and neighbours;
- engaging local people to work at the community level was suggested;

- recognizing the time and effort required to develop relations at the community level, Council suggested NWMO's efforts might need to be directed increasingly to the local level;
- a Council member emphasized that NWMO must respect that there is a spiritual component to decision-making;
- a Council member suggested a number of organizations NWMO might choose to work with to further its Aboriginal engagement activities; and
- Council asked if communities had provided for Aboriginal participation on the Community Liaison Committees that are being formulated for the siting process.

10. Update on Council of Elders

Bob Watts provided an update on the appointment of Elders to the new Council of Elders and planning in progress for the June meeting of the Council. It was reported that there were 10 members selected to form the new Council with 7 members from the previous Elders Forum and 3 new members. Mr. Watts reviewed the selection process. The new Council of Elders will discuss and decide on how best to engage Aboriginal youth.

Council members discussed Mr. Watts report, Council members;

- sought confirmation that there are still some Elders appointed with traditional knowledge, urging NWMO to continue a focus on spiritual components;
- agreed that the Council of Elders should be advocates of learning, information and education about APM, not proponents of the project itself;
- suggested a greater representation of women on the Council of Elders in future;
- suggested to NWMO that Elders maintain an advisory role to NWMO; and
- discussed the participation of youth and if they will be recognized for their contribution. Bob Watts reported that Elders Forum youth members will be thanked and recognized at the upcoming meeting.

11. Upcoming Meetings

Due to the extensive discussion of site selection, engagement, communications and the Council of Elders, the Advisory Council agreed to defer three items to the September meeting: the Role of ITRG in APM Siting; APM Technical Program Update; Review of Support to OPG DGR.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is Monday, September 10, 2012.

12. In Camera Session

The Council held an in camera session without the presence of staff or management.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 2:50 pm.

Dated the 10th day of September, 2012

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection