

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: September 10, 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 September 10, 2012

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

Absent:

Wesley Cragg

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
John Fraser Director, Community Engagement
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs
Chris Hatton Director, APM Repository Design & Development (Item 10)
Mark Jensen Director, DGR Geoscience and Research (Item 9)
Frank King VP and Chief Engineer OPG DGR Licensing and QA (Item 11)
Mike Krizanc Communications Manager
Elena Mantagaris Director, Government & External Relations
Pat Moran General Counsel and Corporate Secretary (Item 12)
Sean Russell Director, APM Repository Research and Development
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson VP, L&ILW DGR Construction and Design (Item 11)

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 June 5, 2012.

UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

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

- relationship building activities including the first meeting of the new Council of Elders, a meeting of the Municipal Forum, and continuing work of the Federal-Provincial Working Group on transportation;
- recent meetings with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC);
- siting activities underway and planning for the next phase of siting work;
- the recent meeting of NWMO's Geoscientific Review Group;
- ongoing work on APM technical development and design optimization activities;
- advances in governance gaining ISO 14001 and CSAZ1000 certifications in addition to ISO 9001;
- the continuation of the panel review process on the OPG low and intermediate level (L&ILW) DGR;
- work related to waste owner cooperation; and
- preparations for the International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR) hosted by NWMO.

Council also discussed the planned timing of the detailed design work for the OPG L&ILW DGR which is reliant on the process of the Joint Review Panel.

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.

Following the presentation, Council addressed a range of topics in its discussion:

- the characterization of sedimentary and crystalline rock sites;
- the history of the safety assessment case studies for APM;
- the status of AECL's waste management programs; and
- the process for selecting a smaller number of communities and sites to advance to the field work phase of the siting process.

5. APM Site Selection Process

Kathryn Shaver provided an update on the communities participating in the APM siting process. She reviewed NWMO's work in the communities including the assigning of relationship managers, funding for project administrators, and work with the community liaison committees. She reported on planning underway for fall open houses in many of the communities. Ms. Shaver also discussed ongoing government relations and media communications support in the siting communities. Staff followed, providing members with detailed updates on activities underway in each of the communities engaged in the APM siting process.

Jo-Ann Facella and Mahrez Ben Belfadhel updated Council on the preliminary assessments underway with communities in the siting process. They reviewed the items that will be addressed in the preliminary assessments which include: geoscientific suitability; engineering; transportation; environment and safety; and environmental, social, economic and cultural considerations. Ms. Facella addressed the work on social and community well-being aspects of assessments. Mr. Belfadhel outlined the work on the geoscientific aspects of the preliminary assessments. He noted that the Geoscientific Review Group recently had met and determined NWMO's work was on track. The Group provided some input on the direction of the assessments and on planning for the next phase of work.

Mike Krizanc discussed media briefings recently provided by NWMO. Mr. Krizanc highlighted the recent article on the front page of the Toronto Star written by John Spears. He reported that all of the Community Liaison Committees have had discussions about establishing newsletters.

Extensive Council discussion followed. Dougal McCreath thanked NWMO for the opportunity to attend the recent meeting of the Geoscientific Review Group. Council members expressed interest in having information on the contractor teams working on the preliminary assessments with NWMO. (*) Council members inquired about the extent of Aboriginal engagement to date as part of the siting process. Council members sought clarification from management on the general approach planned for integrating assessment findings, and identifying the smaller number of communities to proceed to Phase 2 as part of the narrowing down process. Council expressed interest in continuing this discussion at future meetings. (*)

6. 2013-2017 Business Plan

Ken Nash reviewed NWMO's proposed 2013-2017 business plan. He noted that the budget envelope is consistent with current version of plan, and that there were no significant changes. The draft business planning and budgets have been estimated around a scenario representing the earliest possible timelines for site selection, mainly to ensure technical design work will be completed as siting work progresses. Mr. Nash reiterated that siting will progress on timelines shaped by community involvement and decision-making and it was likely that actual timelines will be longer. Mahrez Ben Belfadhel discussed the internal and external resources required to support Phase 2 of the preliminary assessments that would involve field investigations.

Council members had a detailed discussion of NWMO's proposed 2013-2017 business plan. Council sought clarification and further information on different reference planning assumptions to guide financial planning, including timelines. Council members sought clarification on the nature of permits required for field work and emphasized the

importance of continued capacity building in siting regions and with First Nations. There was also discussion of how the site selection criteria would be applied to decision making.

7. External Landscape

Staff highlighted activities underway to build relationships and understanding of the APM project. Jo-Ann Facella reviewed the external landscape in and around communities engaged in the siting process. Mike Krizanc updated the Council on media and communications activities. Elena Mantagaris updated the Council on NWMO's work with Provincial governments in Ontario and Saskatchewan. Bob Watts reported on NWMO's continuing engagement with national and provincial Aboriginal organizations.

As part of this update, management reported to Council on plans for the International Conference on Geological Repositories, for which NWMO would be local host. Council members saw this as an important opportunity for communities and organizations to continue learning about international developments in long-term plans for used fuel management, and encouraged NWMO to extend invitations also to regional Aboriginal organizations. (*)

8. Update on Council of Elders

Bob Watts provided an update on the recent Council of Elders meeting. He reported that a substantive part of the meeting was used to thank the previous Elders involved in the Elders Forum. Mr. Watts reported that the first Council of Elders meeting was a very constructive meeting with Elder Fred Kelly setting a positive tone. An orientation will be held for members which may include a waste facility tour.

The new Council of Elders discussed the involvement of youth and the possibility of additional women sitting on the Council.

Advisory Council members asked management to forward the list of current membership of the Council of Elders. (*)

9. Roles of Independent Review Groups in APM Siting

Council members had asked management to examine whether the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) will have a role in reviewing the APM feasibility studies. Mark Jensen discussed this consideration with the Council.

Council agreed with the conclusion that broadening the ITRG's mandate to include a review of APM siting is not necessary at this time, understanding that a new APM Geoscience Review Group has been established to provide guidance and advice on the findings of the geologic suitability assessments in the siting process.

Following discussion on technical reviews, Council asked management about the processes for expert reviews on social aspects of the APM siting process. On request of Council, management undertook to provide information on the subject matter experts and contractors who are working on the social and community well-being assessments, and the scope of their mandates. (*)

10. APM Technical Update

Sean Russell discussed the work underway to prepare the 4th case study for a repository in crystalline rock. Mr. Russell reported that analysis is underway on a 5th case study which examines an APM repository in sedimentary rock.

Chris Hatton updated the Council on repository design development activities. He reported on the logistics study; the container sizing study; work on copper technology; closure weld development; buffer performance; repository microbiology; underground placement technology and transportation radiological risk assessment.

A Council member asked if there were lessons to be learned from the refurbishment of the Point Lepreau nuclear plant in relation to closure welds. Council also discussed CNSC comments on NWMO's transportation work.

11. Review of NWMO Support to OPG L&ILW DGR

Frank King reported on the work on the regulatory approvals phase of the OPG low and intermediate level (L&ILW) DGR. He discussed the information requests received from the Joint Review Panel and the possible time frames for the hearing.

Mr. King also discussed public engagement activities in Kincardine in relation to the OPG L&ILW DGR.

Derek Wilson reported on the design and construction phase activities of the OPG L&ILW DGR. Mr. Wilson discussed the timing of the design activities. He also reviewed the health and safety statistics; work on field investigations; quality management and a financial summary for the work. He noted that NWMO has received CSA Z1000 and ISO 14001 certifications.

Council members asked about how the new Canadian Environmental Assessment Act would impact the work on the OPG L&ILW DGR.

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 3:20 pm.

Dated the 28th day of November, 2012

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection