

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: February 3, 2014 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 February 3, 2014

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Donald Obonsawin

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash President and 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
Paul Gierszewski Director, Safety & Licensing (Items 8-11)
Chris Hatton Director, Repository Design Development (Items 8-11)
Michael Hung Chief Financial Officer (Item 7)
Mark Jensen Director, DGR Geoscience & Research (Item 9)
Mike Krizanc Communications Manager
Pat Patton Director, Aboriginal Relations (via conference call)
Sean Russell Director, Environmental Assessment
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson VP, L&ILW DGR Design & Construction

Guest

Dr. Dan Longboat Director of the Indigenous Environmental Studies Program, Trent
University (item 8)

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed as written.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the previous meeting, convened on November 27-28, 2013. A Council member requested a copy of the NWMO organizational chart (*).

Council members discussed and provided feedback on the draft 2013 Tracking Matrix of Advisory Council advice. Management reported it will incorporate the Council feedback provided and post the matrix on the NWMO website as it does annually. (*)

STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

Mr. Nash reported on recent activities in the NWMO work program, discussing:

- NWMO's meeting with the Ontario Ministry of Energy, which has a coordinating role for NWMO's work with other Ontario government ministries;
- the steady progress with the APM site selection process and the narrowing down process;
- activities planned for 2014 to complete Phase 1 assessments for ten communities while initiating Phase 2 work in four other areas;
- the safety case for a DGR in sedimentary rock submitted to CNSC in December;
- NWMO continues its watching brief on fuel cycle developments that may have implications for used fuel management, and continues to publish a report annually on this topic;
- a new Board appointment - Mr. Wayne Robbins has been added to the NWMO Board of Directors;
- work continues to increase cooperation amongst waste owners;
- NWMO's work on the OPG L&ILW DGR, including additional information requests received by OPG from the Joint Review Panel; and
- an update on developments in the Canadian nuclear industry.

Mr. Nash thanked Council for their work and recommendations included in the Triennial Report.

Council members asked for a copy of the report provided to the Joint Review Panel (JRP) on an independent risk review for alternatives to a DGR at the Bruce Site when available (*).

4. APM Program Overview and Risk Assessment

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management reports on any areas of potential business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation.

In discussion with management, Council asked if NWMO had considered uncertainties for field work timelines from risks around timing of permits and approvals. Council members sought clarification on proposed proof testing programs for used fuel containers and the scope and timing of that work. Council members expressed interest in having additional information on the questions asked of Sweden's implementer SKB by the Swedish Regulator SSM concerning copper corrosion (*).

5. Status of Site Selection Process Update

Ms. Shaver reported on the status of the APM site selection process noting that ten communities are continuing with Phase 1 desk-top assessments in 2014. Ms. Shaver reported that management will provide an update on the assessments to the Council at its 2014 meetings.

It was reported that in January 2014 NWMO initiated a new phase of work with four communities moving into Phase 2 assessments, which includes initiating field work and broadening engagement with interested communities, their neighbouring communities and Aboriginal peoples.

Council members discussed the status of the site selection process, including:

- the two communities recently screened out of the siting process based on interim geoscientific findings;
- the quality assurance provisions in place when selecting contractors being hired for field work. Staff reported that there are strong quality assurance requirements in place and that the Geoscientific Review Group examines both the initial scopes of work and the results from the surveys;
- the potential for use of contractors from the local communities. NWMO noted that it will use local contractors wherever possible, recognizing that some of the work is very specialized;
- the importance of NWMO ensuring contractor selection will provide high quality and consistency of approach across siting areas being studied;
- a Council member reinforced the importance of continuing to seek input from Aboriginal communities in Phase 2 to ensure that field work does not impact on culturally sensitive areas; NWMO confirmed this was an integral part of the continuing siting process;
- a Council member suggested that NWMO should look at the siting process from the perspective of moving the environment forward in a positive way and whether the process could result in protection of land or other local interests; and
- several Council members suggested that there appeared to be good opportunities to involve summer students from Canadian universities in the upcoming field work.

6. Building Relationships

Council received NWMO's report on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, an engagement report, a report on the Council of Elders and a media analysis.

On the request of a Council member, management committed to bring forward NWMO's transparency policy at an upcoming meeting for review with Council (*).

7. Financial Surety

At Council's request, Michael Hung provided a presentation on financial surety for the APM program. Mr. Hung reported that the key objective of financial surety is ensuring that sufficient funds are available to pay for the safe, long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel.

Michael Hung discussed with Council:

- who pays for APM;
- the 2011 cost estimate and the 2016 update of the cost estimate;
- the funding formula; and
- the current status of liabilities for used fuel

8. Aboriginal Law

Dr. Dan Longboat, the Director of the Indigenous Environmental Studies Program, Trent University was invited to speak to the Council on the origins of Aboriginal laws and systems of governance. He discussed decision-making processes which are based on consensus.

Council members discussed a book referenced by Dr. Longboat entitled Blackfoot Physics by David Peat. A Council member asked about differences or similarities among and between the Aboriginal peoples in different parts of Canada. Dr. Longboat noted that indigenous people are all quite distinct reflecting their unique cultures and ecosystems in which they live.

9. APM Technical Program Update & ITRG Report Disposition

Council was provided with an update on the APM technical program. Council members asked questions about testing to be conducted on container integrity.

Staff also presented NWMO's dispositioning of the findings of the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) 2013 report, noting that all ITRG recommendations were accepted by NWMO. Council members discussed scenarios related to the 5th case study and work on the shaft sealing program.

10. Environmental Integrity

At the request of Council, NWMO staff discussed how environmental integrity is being addressed in the APM program. In implementing the project, Council members suggested that NWMO might consider tabling with the host community opportunities for APM implementation to support sustainability and local environmental priorities in early phases of design of the APM facilities to take into account matters affecting the community.

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

Staff provided the Council with an update on NWMO's work on the OPG low and intermediate level waste DGR. Council members discussed the additional information requests received from the Joint Review Panel.

12. In Camera Meeting

The Council met *in camera*.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:25 pm.

Dated the 27th day of May, 2014

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection