

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**DRAFT Record of Discussion: September 15, 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 September 15, 2014

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Dougal McCreath

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  
Chris Hatton                   Director, Repository Design Development  
Elena Mantagaris             Director, Government & External Relations  
Sean Russell                   Director, Environmental Assessment  
Bob Watts                      Director, Aboriginal Community Relations

## **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 May 27, 2014.

Mr. Nash updated the Council on the action item related to providing ongoing information on fuel cycle technologies noting that there is continued industry interest in this topic.

## **STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO**

### **3. President's Report**

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

- work on the 2015-2019 NWMO Business Plan which has the addition of a specific corporate level objective on transportation;
- the Members Annual General Meeting in June and their review of NWMO's overall costs and direction;
- a recent meeting with NWMO's Council of Elders and Treaty 3 Elders and Grand Chief;
- NWMO presentations at the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference;
- progress on the plan for proof testing the engineered barrier system;
- the transportation logistics work underway; and
- the continuation of the Joint Review Panel hearings on OPG's low and intermediate level waste DGR.

Mr. Nash reported that Mr. Bob Watts has been promoted to Associate Vice President.

Council members discussed NWMO's business planning process, closure of Gentilly, and the continued industry and public interest in reprocessing. Council also discussed the Joint Review Panel hearings on the OPG Low and Intermediate Level Waste DGR and the process once the panel makes its recommendations.

### **4. Site Selection Process and 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.

Staff provided an overview of activities in communities undergoing Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments. An update was also provided on NWMO's work with Aboriginal organizations and the recent joint meeting of the Council of Elders and Treaty 3 representatives.

Council members asked questions about:

- the recent Supreme court decision in British Columbia regarding Aboriginal title over specific land and how that may affect APM. Mr. Watts reported that NWMO is working to understand the decision and potential impacts; and
- the Joint Review Panel hearings and participation by Michigan representatives.

A Council member asked NWMO to circulate to Council any information it has regarding Treaty 3 resource law. (\*)

## **5. Phase 1 Assessments**

Kathryn Shaver reviewed the work underway in the nine communities in the final stages of Step 3, Phase 1 preliminary assessments which are expected to be completed by year-end 2014. She reported that these desk-top assessments, along with engagement programs, seek to identify whether communities have strong potential to meet technical and social siting requirements.

Staff presented findings for these nine Phase 1 assessments in the subject areas of engineering, geoscience, environment & safety, transportation, community well-being and Aboriginal relations.

Council members discussed:

- the idea of regional planning and cooperation going forward in the siting areas; and
- Aboriginal relations.

## **6. Phase 2 Work Program**

Staff reported that detailed activities, scopes of work, schedules and cost estimates are under development for Phase 2 siting activities. Staff discussed the advancement of the program definition and specific inputs required for Phase 2. Next steps include projecting the sequence of studies for each individual siting area and the timeline required to complete the full set of Phase 2 community assessments. It was reported that ceremonies had been held with local Aboriginal groups in advance of beginning Phase 2 work in some of the communities.

Management has reviewed challenges and risks associated with sustaining involvement of communities in Phase 2 that may have program and/or resource implications. Costing of these activities has commenced and will be completed by Q1 2015.

Ms. Shaver reported that the organizational structure for Phase 2 has been established, roles and responsibilities assigned and a committee structure established for internal coordination and oversight of this new phase of work.

## **7. Considerations for Phase 2 Workplan**

Kathryn Shaver discussed the intensive effort underway to plan out the multi-year Phase 2 studies and engagement. She reported that a key part of the planning process is identifying how best to focus activities and resources on priority areas to support continued engagement of communities.

Bob Watts discussed with the Council tools for moving forward in Aboriginal Relations.

In discussing communications and outreach, a Council member suggested increased outreach to the nuclear industry. Council members emphasized the importance of NWMO maintaining its emphasis on principles and values. It is important that the NWMO continue to be a listening and open-minded organization, rather than a strong proponent of a plan. Council also discussed resources available to communities for research and possible community well-being funds for Phase 2.

## **8. Transportation of Used Fuel to a DGR**

Chris Hatton updated the Council on NWMO's work on transportation including transportation logistics. Elena Mantagaris spoke to plans for engagement on transportation planning.

Council discussed NWMO's work on transportation logistics and timing for engaging communities potentially affected by transportation routes. A Council member agreed with fostering a more general understanding on transportation but cautioned that the focus may quickly shift to specific routes. Another member encouraged NWMO to ensure that all transportation methods were included in its work. Council members also asked about engaging provincial governments in Quebec and New Brunswick on transportation matters.

## **9. Development of a Plan to Obtain Approval to Construct**

Further to a request by the Advisory Council, management tabled a document which identified key milestones, consultation and community involvement in establishing the inventory for the repository, and decisions and assumptions leading to regulatory approval to construct a used fuel deep geological repository (DGR). The Council discussed fulfilling the duty to consult.

## **10. 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.

A Council member suggested more clearly profiling transportation in the risk review to reflect its importance as a strategic NWMO objective.

## **11. APM Technical Program Update**

Chris Hatton discussed the regulatory interface and pre-project review as well as developments in repository design. He reported that NWMO is waiting for a formal response from the CNSC with regard to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> case studies.

On repository design, Mr. Hatton reported that a major accomplishment over the reporting period was the completion of a weld crush test which illustrated that the weld material has comparable metallurgy to the base steel.

Advisory Council members asked questions about the manufacturing and composition of the bentonite buffer and the weld crush test. Council members also discussed the report provided on NWMO's dispositioning of the Swedish regulator's comments on the Swedish program's licensing.

## **12. Review of NWMO Support to OPG**

Council members were provided with an update on the Joint Review Panel hearings for the OPG low and intermediate level deep geological repository which were in progress from September 8 to September 19.

Council discussed the possible results of the licensing process for the L&ILW DGR and implications for the APM project.

## **13. Council Operations (in Camera)**

The Advisory Council met in camera with NWMO management to discuss some operational issues. The Council Chair undertook to convey these items to the Board of Directors (\*).

## **14. In Camera Meeting**

The Council met *in camera* without the presence of NWMO management.

### **Termination of Meeting**

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

Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014

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*David Crombie*  
*Advisory Council Chair*