

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

DRAFT Record of Discussion: November 25, 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. EST On November 25, 2014

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
Wesley Cragg

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
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs
Paul Gierszewski Director, Safety & Licensing (Items 8-13)
Chris Hatton Director, Repository Design Development (Items 8-13)
Mike Krizanc Communications Manager
Elena Mantagaris Director, Government & External Relations
Pat Moran General Counsel and Corporate Secretary (Items 8-13)
Sean Russell Director, Environmental Assessment
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson VP, Design and Construction (Items 8-13)

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 September 15, 2014.

STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

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

- continued implementation of APM with positive results in the site selection program, demonstrated technical capability, and cost savings for the engineered barrier system;
- as the project progresses in complexity, Mr. Nash discussed the importance of NWMO continuing to monitor the broader external landscape and keeping all stakeholders and opinion leaders well informed;
- NWMO's continued work and planning for its two major projects – phase 2 site selection and proof testing of the engineered barrier system;
- progress on development of the updated lifecycle costs for APM;
- the 2015-2019 five-year business plan being reviewed by the Board;
- a very productive recent meeting of the Council of Elders, attended by the Deputy Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation;
- the transportation logistics study for moving used fuel, which is nearing completion;
- the completed hearings on OPG's Low and Intermediate Level Waste (L&ILW) deep geological repository (DGR) project; and
- developments in the waste management programs in the U.K., Sweden, France, Switzerland, Germany and the U.S.A.

Advisory Council members discussed international safety culture and standards for nuclear waste management organizations. Also discussed was the role of the regulators in maintaining safety culture over long time frames and how it is maintained as a core strategic value in waste organizations.

Council members also asked questions about the U.S. involvement in the hearings for OPG's low and intermediate-level DGR and the Great Lakes interests. Members felt it important for NWMO to track the nature of the dialogue and concerns being raised in the context of the OPG project and to consider timing and approach to keeping the U.S. briefed on the APM project.

4. Phase 1 Assessments Update and Recommendations

Management reported on Phase 1 desktop preliminary assessments for a number of communities. Management reviewed the status of communities engaged in Phase 1 assessments and provided an update on assessment analysis and findings.

A focus of the discussion was a review of assessment outcomes and analysis for the recently completed community assessments. Council discussed management's recommendations on communities selected to proceed for further study by advancing to initial Phase 2 assessments.

In terms of the path forward for communities continuing to Phase 2 study, Council members sought clarification and confirmation from management in the following areas:

- that neighbouring communities will be part of the broadened dialogue in Phase 2 and engaged in consideration of the APM project in each study area;
- that broadened engagement will be planned for each Phase 2 study area, that will invite a more regional perspective and involvement of municipal and Aboriginal communities, and support a broad base of understanding and deliberation on the project;
- that in addition to important technical safety considerations, Phase 2 will explore the potential for partnerships in each regional siting study area. Assessments will explore the strength of potential partnerships with the municipal communities and Aboriginal people; and
- that both technical and social considerations associated with transportation safety will be addressed in Phase 2.

In terms of future briefing packages, Council members provided some suggestions to NWMO to improve the visual communication on the maps of the sites participating in the APM siting process.

5. Communicating the Decisions

Lisa Frizzell tabled for Advisory Council review the draft communications plan for releasing the findings of the set of Phase 1 assessments by early 2015.

She reviewed the assessments and reports that NWMO will have completed in collaboration with nine communities that have been involved in Phase 1 assessments and engaged in learning more about Adaptive Phased Management (APM).

Ms. Frizzell reviewed plans for sharing the findings with the communities and the public, based on a roll-out that is consistent with earlier Phase 1 releases. The NWMO will endeavour to share findings with groups of communities in the same general area at the same time, depending on when studies are finalized. Staff noted that the proposed process is consistent with NWMO's past practice and NWMO's commitment to advise communities in a timely way upon completion of assessments.

Council members discussed the proposed plan and provided a range of perspectives on the rollout logistics.

6. Recognizing Community Contributions

Management reviewed with the Advisory Council the recognition program that would be released to initiating communities upon completion of Phase 1 assessments, consistent with past practice and consistent with the previously Board-approved program. Council members discussed the existing program for recognizing important contributions of initiating communities through a community well-being reserve fund. As an information item, Council asked for a future report from staff on how funds are being used in the communities. Management agreed to report on how funds are being used so far at the next meeting (*).

A focus of the discussion with Council members was NWMO's proposed new program for recognizing important contributions of Aboriginal communities and organizations in the site selection process upon completion of the final Phase 1 studies.

Council members expressed support for recognizing the contributions of Aboriginal communities and organizations. Members discussed the details of the draft proposal:

- Clarification was sought on the intended scope of the program;
- Members offered substantial advice and comments for refining the program parameters and for enhancing the program description to provide greater clarity on the program intent; and
- Council members emphasized that NWMO should be clear in distinguishing this new initiative from the earlier program released for initiating communities.

7. Phase 2 Work Program / Project Plan Update

In this two-part agenda item, Council discussed with management:

- progress to date in delivering Phase 2 siting activities; and
- the development of multi-year plans for the delivery of Phase 2 assessments.

The initiation of Phase 2 assessments in 2014 represented an important new milestone in the siting process. Mahrez Ben Belfadhel and Bob Watts provided an update on Phase 2 preliminary assessments and engagement which comprises a multi-year program of work that will be the focus of siting activity for the upcoming business planning period. The NWMO reported that in January 2014, Phase 2 preliminary assessments were initiated in the following four communities: Creighton, SK; Ignace, ON; Schreiber, ON; Hornepayne, ON.

Staff described the activities undertaken which included:

- early field reconnaissance (i.e., observing general geological features) with the support and participation of some First Nation and Métis communities and Elders;
- geoscientific interpretation of data from airborne geophysical surveys and observing geological features;
- preliminary analysis of the integrated geoscientific findings, in progress; and
- funding and relationship agreements signed with some communities.

Council members discussed with NWMO's geosciences staff the interpretation of data collected to date, and the further insights provided about the potential for these areas to meet the strict siting requirements. Management described the considerations that will guide decisions on where NWMO will concentrate work and further siting studies.

Next steps with Phase 2 were addressed as management discussed the multi-year Phase 2 project plan being developed for discussion with the Council and Board. Council was briefed on the extensive business planning exercise to scope out the multi-year activities and costs for Phase 2. Council members asked a number of questions related to the sequence of activities by year, the types of work involved in the geosciences and environment components, and business planning costs.

8. Building Relationships

Council received NWMO's reports on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, engagement activities, media coverage and meetings of the Council of Elders.

At Council's request, Bob Watts provided additional detail on the recent Council of Elders' meeting and the Elders' work on the development of an NWMO Traditional Knowledge Policy.

9. Transparency Policy Review

At the Council's request, management brought forward NWMO's Transparency Policy for review and discussion. Council members had an extensive discussion about NWMO's transparency policy, providing some suggestions for clarifying the Policy. Management undertook to consider the Council's suggestions (*).

10. Presentation on Alternative Fuel Cycles

At the Council's request, this item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

11. Technical Briefing on APM Engineered Barrier System

At the Council's request, a special information session was provided on the APM engineered barrier system.

Chris Hatton provided the Council with a briefing on the APM engineered barrier system. Through the briefing session, Council members asked a number of technical questions related to: glaciation; container development and materials; container costs; container emplacement options in the repository; and the construction of the buffer box.

12. APM Program Overview and Risk Assessment

Council members were provided with an update on key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation. It was noted that the risk profile would be updated in Q1 2015.

13. Review of NWMO Support to OPG

Paul Gierszewski provided Council members with an update on the Joint Review Panel hearings for the OPG low and intermediate level deep geological repository which included a review of the lessons learned for APM. Mr. Gierszewski also discussed the timelines for a report by the panel.

13. Council Operations (in Camera)

The Advisory Council met in camera with Ken Nash and Kathryn Shaver to discuss some operational issues.

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 3:45 pm.

Dated the 9th day of February, 2015

David Crombie
Advisory Council Chair