

NWMO Environment Policy



NWMO-POL-ES-0001

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nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

Introduction/Background

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) vision is the long-term management of Canada's nuclear waste in a manner that safeguards people and respects the environment, now and in the future. The purpose of the NWMO is to develop and implement, collaboratively with Canadians, a management approach for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel that is socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible and economically feasible.

Scope

This policy shall apply to all work activities such as site characterization, site preparation, construction, commissioning and operations activities that may be undertaken for the development and operation of deep geological repositories for nuclear wastes.

Policy

The NWMO shall work to continually improve its environmental performance.

To achieve this, the NWMO shall:

- » Plan and conduct all activities in a manner that meets or goes beyond compliance with applicable legislation, regulations, and other codes of practice or programs to which the NWMO voluntarily commits;
- » Make decisions about environmental and public health risks and opportunities in a structured and systematic way consistent with its values;
- » Implement and maintain an environmental management system and environmental monitoring programs that are consistent with the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001;
- » Educate, encourage and empower its employees to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner;
- » Reduce its environmental impacts through efficient and effective use of energy and resources, and prevention of pollution;
- » Work in partnership with communities to identify environmental and public health interests, and consider those interests in the assessment of projects;
- » Monitor, measure, audit, and actively, transparently and effectively communicate its environmental performance and issues to employees, governments, communities of interest, and the public at large.

Requirements/Decision Rules

All employees are accountable for:

- » Making conservative decisions incorporating environmental and public health risk to reduce environmental impacts and prevent pollution;
- » Performing work in accordance with procedures in order to protect the natural environment;
- » Identifying, communicating, and where appropriate, mitigating environmental hazards associated with their work.

Management is accountable for:

- » Ensuring that environmental risks (aspects) and impacts are assessed and managed;
- » Ensuring that activities and operations are designed to protect the environment and public health;
- » Ensuring that work is planned and performed to prevent pollution and protect the environment and public health;
- » Providing employees with the information, training, tools, procedures and support to perform work without harming the environment or endangering public health.

NWMO contractors are accountable for:

- » Managing the environmental impacts of work performed at NWMO workplaces or on behalf of the NWMO, including ensuring full compliance with legislation, prevention of pollution, and protection of the environment and public health;
- » Having an environmental management plan that meets or exceeds the NWMO requirements;
- » Ensuring their subcontractors have environmental management plans or procedures that are compliant and consistent with their environmental management plan.

Legal Requirements

A listing of all federal and provincial legislation that apply to the activities of the NWMO is maintained as NWMO-LIST-08610-0001.

Definitions

6.1 Aspect

ISO 14001 describes an environmental aspect as an element of an organization's activities or products or services that can interact with the environment.

**For more information,
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