

March, 2007

The Honourable Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.  
Minister  
Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Lunn:

In November 2005, following a comprehensive three-year study which engaged thousands of Canadians – specialists and unaffiliated citizens alike – the Nuclear Waste Management Organization proposed that Canada adopt an Adaptive Phased Management approach for the long-term care of its used nuclear fuel. After submitting its report, the organization began to take steps in preparation for implementing the Government's decision.

As documented in the organization's 2006 Annual Report, the NWMO Advisory Council has continued throughout this transition period our practice of offering independent guidance and advice. We scrutinized and provided comment on a work program which included: a detailed review of what was learned during the study; examination of best practices domestically and elsewhere; a broadening of both social and technical research capacity; and strengthening the NWMO governance foundation to ensure the necessary resources, capabilities and policies are in place for implementation. The NWMO has been responsive to our counsel. It is now well positioned to begin the next important phase of its mandate. The Advisory Council is also prepared to assume the renewed responsibilities assigned it by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

There has been a great deal of public discussion in recent months about energy policy in Canada. Like others heard on this issue, members of the Advisory Council have different views on nuclear power. However, reflecting on what Canadians said throughout the study, we continue to believe that regardless of decisions which will be taken about how electricity should be generated, our generation has a responsibility to safely manage the waste we produce and to put in place a process that will allow future generations to confirm or adapt the approach in the light of their own experiences and circumstances.

The NWMO has put forward a reasoned plan to manage the waste produced from existing facilities and has embarked on a sensible course to ready itself for implementing a long-term nuclear waste management strategy. It has demonstrated a commitment to continuously improving its processes and to meaningfully engage at every stage those who are interested in or might be affected by its activities. The Advisory Council looks forward to a Government decision and to reviewing the NWMO's collaborative development of plans for responsibly implementing the chosen approach.

Sincerely, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council,

The Honourable David Crombie  
Chairman  
Advisory Council to the NWMO

Copy: NWMO Advisory Council Members:

Dr. David Cameron	Ms. Helen Cooper	Mr. Gordon Cressy
Dr. Frederick Gilbert	Ms. Eva Ligeti	Dr. Derek Lister
Mr. Donald Obonsawin	Dr. Daniel Rozon	