

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: March 6, 2008 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 March 6, 2008.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Fred Gilbert
Rudyard Griffiths
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Daniel Rozon

Regrets:

Donald Obonsawin

NWMO Staff in Attendance:

Ken Nash President (Except Item 15)
Kathryn Shaver Vice President, Corporate Affairs (Except Item 15)
Frank King Vice President, Science & Technology (Item 4 only)
Gillian Adshead Assistant Board Secretary (Except Item 15)
Mike Borrelli NWMO Staff (Item 7 only)
Angelo Castellan Chief Financial Officer (Item 10 only)
Elizabeth Dowdeswell Special Advisor to the Board (Item 11 only)
Jo-Ann Facella NWMO Staff (Item 5 only)
Anda Kalvins Director, Environment (Item 10 only)
Pat Patton Manager, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations (Item 6 only)
Jamie Robinson Director of Communications (Items 7 and 11 only)
Cynthia Summers Manager of Community Engagement and Research (Items
7 and 8 only)
Doug Wright Director of Policy & Planning (Item 11 only)

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Crombie welcomed three new members of Council: Dr. Marlyn Cook, Dr. Dougal McCreath, and Mr. Rudyard Griffiths. The Agenda was reviewed and approved with one amendment.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting, convened on November 8, 2007.

DISCUSSION WITH NWMO

3. Staff Report

The Chairman invited the President to review with the Council NWMO's recent activities.

The President updated the Council on NWMO's activities since the November 8, 2007 Advisory Council meeting, structuring his report consistent with the business plan's seven strategic objectives:

Engagement / Building Long-term relationships

- The NWMO continued to build relationships and meet with interested organizations and individuals. Mr. Nash reported on meetings held with provincial and federal governments, Aboriginal groups, non-governmental organizations and municipal organizations.
- The NWMO visited the UK to meet with representatives of their municipal organization, NuLeaf, and NWMO is currently reviewing a possible structure for its own municipal liaison.
- NWMO continues work to complete a protocol agreement with the Assembly of First Nations and also with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Research and Development:

- As part of the social research program, work has been initiated on the topic of community well-being to examine both domestic and international practices through the lens of key participants involved in past development projects.

Financial Surety:

- Work was completed on the funding formula and, with final Board approval, it will be included in the Annual Report for approval by the Minister of Natural Resources.

Governance:

- Ontario Power Generation appointed Mr. Pierre Charlebois, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to the NWMO Board of Directors.
- Work has begun to identify candidates for NWMO's Technical Review Group.
- Discussions with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission continue to develop a protocol agreement for interface with the CNSC in NWMO's pre-licensing phase.

Building the Organization's Capability

- NWMO has recently hired a number of employees with Masters or PhD degrees including those with expertise in geosciences, geology, hydrogeology and geomechanics.
- An additional graduate trainee has been hired to support NWMO's Aboriginal engagement program.
- NWMO also recently hired Directors in the areas of Human Resources, Legal Services and Communications.

Collaborative design of the siting process

- Elizabeth Dowdeswell will be providing an in-depth update on the collaborative design of the siting process to the Advisory Council, and then to the Board. A key decision will be taken by the Board in June concerning timing for the initiation of the public dialogue on the collaborative design of the siting process.

Adjusting and developing plans

- Reviewing and adjusting plans, as required, is a key component of Adaptive Phased Management.
- Council's views will be key in how NWMO moves forward when adjusting its plans to accommodate new nuclear build.

The President invited comments or questions on his report and Council discussion ensued. The Council discussed the significance of ensuring involvement of both municipal and provincial governments in addition to the federal government as NWMO moves forward. Increasingly, local governments will become key to implementation.

4. Technical Program Update

Mr. King provided an update to the Council on the status of the NWMO Technical Research and Development program summarizing progress in the four main areas of the program:

- international co-operation on research and development;
- geoscience, safety assessment, used fuel storage and repository engineering;
- regulatory interface; and
- technical support to collaborative development of the siting process.

He reported that:

- NWMO is currently investigating access to the research program underway in Mont Terri, Switzerland.

- NWMO has been requested to provide a briefing to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission commissioners in June on Canada's nuclear waste management infrastructure.
- Technical information reports are also being prepared as input as supporting material for the collaborative development of the siting process.

Formation of the Independent Technical Review Group is underway and the Board will approve the members at its June meeting. Mr. King invited the Council to suggest candidate names that might be suitable to participate in the Technical Review Group. At the Council's request, the President committed to bring forward the list of potential candidates being proposed as members of the Group before they are taken to the Board for approval.

The Council also discussed the composition and competencies required of the Group. The Council requested that NWMO provide them with a refresher course on the technical aspects of NWMO's work.

5. Results of Phase 1 Engagement Activities

Kathryn Shaver introduced the item relating to the feedback from phase 1 of engagement which invited direction for the five-year plan. Consistent with the 2008-2012 Business Plan, NWMO's public engagement in its early implementation mandate is being conducted through several phases.

Ms. Shaver noted that consistent with the 2008-2012 Business Plan, NWMO's engagement in its early implementation mandate is being conducted through several phases. She noted that Phase 1 of engagement encompassed activities since the June 2007 government decision to select Adaptive Phased Management. She reviewed the objectives of this round of dialogue: to reintroduce the organization; to review the government decision and elements of APM; and to have initial conversations about expectations for NWMO as implementer. During these discussions, NWMO invited comment on its draft planning objectives, and invited people to express key issues and expectations for the implementation process and plans.

It was reported that NWMO sought to invite views/perspectives from a wide range of organizations and individuals: governments; municipal and community organizations; NGOs, Industry, research community; Aboriginal organizations; and citizens in each of the 4 nuclear provinces.

In this period of engagement NWMO convened many face-to-face meetings with individuals and organizations; two rounds of Citizen Panels and staff participated in over 50 seminars, workshops and engagement activities. Web-based engagement invited further opportunity for comment, using deliberative surveys and comments invited on a concept paper on preparing for implementation.

NWMO received a clear message of confidence in the organization and its processes. The organization was advised to continue its commitment to openness and transparency. There is an expectation that NWMO will continue to work in a collaborative way, inviting input and multiple perspectives as it moves forward with implementation. Many organizations expressed interest in working with NWMO. Many emphasized the importance of involving youth in NWMO's work in light of the intergenerational nature of

the program. NWMO was advised of the scope of information requirements to support its process and found many issues to be of particular public interest, such as financial surety, transportation, governance and regulatory oversight and community impacts.

Ms. Shaver reported that the input received will be taken into account in drafting a five-year implementation plan. This plan will be produced for public review and input.

In the discussion that ensued, several Council members suggested that the issue of transportation should be assigned greater focus in NWMO's plans and documents and that it will be a critical and unpredictable component of NWMO's work.

The Council also discussed the issue of engagement fatigue and recommended that NWMO carefully consider how much it asks of the public. In response to a Council member's request to view the statistics related to website visits, a staff member reported the information

6. Aboriginal Program Update

Pat Patton joined the Council meeting and was invited to provide an update on the NWMO's Aboriginal program.

Ms. Patton reported that the 2008 Aboriginal Engagement plan was developed through advice from Niigani and the Elders' Forum in keeping with the direction of NWMO's overall 2008 Engagement Plan. NWMO's goal is to be responsive to and take action now on advice given by Aboriginal groups. Niigani reviewed the 2008 plan and noted that it was an ambitious amount of work to be completed in one year.

Ms. Patton reported on recent engagement activities which included:

- attendance at the Northern Saskatchewan Trapper's convention in Northern Saskatchewan; and
- the recent Niigani meeting which covered issues related to NWMO's work this year and beyond.

Ms. Patton outlined a number of key 2008 engagement activities which include:

- two Elders' Forums, which will focus on developing guiding principles for working with Aboriginal people;
- meetings with Niigani;
- development of culturally appropriate communication material for use in working with Aboriginal peoples;
- the summer youth program which is planned around already established events to provide broad outreach; and
- a workshop to explore the Interweaving of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and western science which will be conducted in the fall of 2008.

In response to suggestions and advice from Niigani and the Elders' Forum, NWMO will form an Aboriginal Communications Project Group made up of individuals with expertise in communication with Aboriginal people. This Group will provide advice to NWMO this year on the development of culturally-appropriate communication materials.

Work will continue to develop protocols and collaborative work programs with national Aboriginal organizations. NWMO will also work to develop relationships and dialogue with provincial and regional Aboriginal organizations.

The Chairman invited the Council to comment on Ms. Patton's report.

The Council asked questions relating to the level of interest in technical knowledge received from Aboriginal groups and whether natural analogues are helpful in describing the NWMO's work. Council also agreed that seeking opportunities to speak about NWMO at existing gatherings or meetings is a helpful method for avoiding engagement fatigue.

7. Communications Planning

Jamie Robinson, Cynthia Summers and Mike Borrelli joined the Council meeting to provide a presentation on available new electronic communication methods.

Mr. Robinson reviewed NWMO's corporate communication goals and current communication vehicles with the Council.

Ms. Summers and Mr. Borelli reviewed the variety of new media techniques being used by some organizations to reach stakeholders including social networking, podcasts, wikis and blogs and presented examples of these to the Council. Council advised caution in selecting or adopting techniques most appropriate for NWMO's mandate.

Mr. Robinson also outlined the plans for a communication audit to analyze NWMO's current methods of internal and external communications needs, policies, practices and capabilities.

The Chairman invited Council discussion. The Council discussed the sample size of the communications audit participants. Council members asked that Mr. Robinson review the results of the communications audit with them and his resulting recommendations. Council also expressed an interest in seeing the statistics of visitors to the website graphed over time.

8. Engaging Youth

Cynthia Summers presented NWMO's draft youth engagement plan. She explained that given the intergenerational nature of NWMO's work, and feedback received in almost all of the engagement activities, it is important that NWMO focus part of its strategy on engaging youth.

Ms. Summers invited Council discussion and advice regarding the appropriateness of the objectives for the youth engagement plan, input on key strategic issues for NWMO consideration, and invited comments on the proposed youth advisory committee.

In discussing the plan for a youth committee, some Council members suggested it might be premature to institutionalize a youth committee. Members advised:

- implementing a "pilot" initiative for a youth advisory committee, something less formal which isn't institutionalized, and which provides the opportunity to learn, and to consider the value of creating a more enduring youth advisory committee in the future, and what form that might take;

- in inviting participants, reaching beyond post-secondary students, for reflection of broader demographic; and
- ensuring NWMO invite the youth participants to generate ideas for the youth strategy rather than react to ideas tabled by NWMO.

Challenges of initiating civic dialogue with youth on this topic were discussed. A Council member felt that it might be difficult to engage and sustain the interest of young people while in this broad stage of engagement. Council also expressed concern as to how NWMO might ensure broad perspective of youth on the Council rather than a segment of youth who are specifically interested in the topic of nuclear fuel waste management. There was discussion regarding attracting youth by broadening the context for discussion to sustainability. NWMO was encouraged to seek opportunities within the context of its corporate citizenship program to support youth engagement and capacity building.

9. Letter to Minister – Annual Report

The Chairman presented to Council, for review, a draft of the annual letter for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources with comments on NWMO's preceding fiscal year.

The Chairman invited Council comment on the draft letter with minor editorial changes, Council confirmed agreement with the letter.

10. Draft Implementation Plan

The President introduced the draft Implementation Plan to the Council noting that it is one of the key documents the NWMO will produce during this year. The structure of the draft Plan follows that of the business plan and annual report.

Ms. Kalvins was invited to present the draft Implementation Plan. The draft Implementation Plan reflects input received on the seven strategic objectives during phase 1 of engagement and is to be released for public comment (Phase 2 of engagement) following NWMO Board review of the document on April 10, 2008. The Implementation Plan is expected to be finalized and put forth for approval by the Board at its June meeting. In parallel, NWMO will be conducting its business planning process for 2009.

The President invited the Council to comment on the Plan, specifically on its structure and whether NWMO has captured an appropriate level of detail.

The Council provided detailed feedback on all aspects of the draft Implementation Plan. Specific suggestions included placing the strategic objectives into the executive summary, increasing the level of attention on transportation, further clarifying NWMO's proposed process for adapting to change, specifically the issue of new build, and more demonstration of NWMO's ongoing commitment to include ethical considerations in its work. The President committed to sharing the revised and updated Plan with the Council at its May meeting.

11. Phase 3: Preparations for Siting Design Dialogue

a) Engagement Plan

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the Special Advisor to the Board joined the meeting to update the Council on the proposed approach to engagement planned for the fall of 2008 to provide input into the design of a siting process. Ms. Dowdeswell noted that the planned engagement activities will expand NWMO's learning about key issues and concerns to be addressed in the design of the siting process.

Ms. Dowdeswell reviewed the Council's previous suggestions about the process and noted that they had all been incorporated into the planning.

She also reported on the establishment of an internal multi-disciplinary team to undertake activities to ensure NWMO's readiness for a public dialogue. The team will be examining the lessons learned from phase 1 of engagement and determining information requirements going forward.

b) Status of Discussion Document and Collateral Material

Ms. Dowdeswell reported that background material is being prepared to complement the discussion document on siting. The materials are being developed to support the NWMO engagement team in addressing specific issues such as climate change, security and transportation. A key element of the plan is to ensure thorough training of the engagement team which will involve many NWMO staff.

Ms. Dowdeswell invited Doug Wright, the Director of Policy and Planning to review the status of the discussion document with Council. He reported that the document is in final stages of preparation and may be subject to minor edits and then translated into French. Members offered a number of editorial enhancements.

c) Communications Plan Framework

Mr. Jamie Robinson outlined the overall framework for NWMO communications for the dialogue on the siting design. In response to input through dialogues a brief project description is also being developed.

d) Readiness Criteria for Engagement of Citizens on Siting Discussion Document

Ms. Dowdeswell discussed with the Council the process for determining readiness to proceed with the engagement on the design of the process for selecting a site and the subsequent step of testing and validating a proposed siting process and plan.

The Council was asked for comment on the preparations for the siting design dialogue.

The Council discussed the timelines. Some members commented that early 2009 may be too optimistic to begin testing and validating a proposed siting process and plan. Council also provided some specific editorial feedback on the discussion document.

The Council made some suggestions regarding potential background papers and requested that they receive copies of the finalized background material and papers being developed for the siting design process.

12. Discussion of Paper by D. Lister and D. Rozon

Council Members Dr. Daniel Rozon and Dr. Derek Lister introduced their work discussing the possible utilization of the fluoride volatility method for reprocessing used fuel.

Dr. Lister and Dr. Rozon are recommending that NWMO carry out a more detailed preliminary study to identify potential costs of the Fluoride Volatility (FV) process for reprocessing on a commercial scale in the Canadian context.

Mr. Nash reminded the Council that NWMO continues to monitor reprocessing and other new technologies as they develop around the world.

Significant discussion followed as members considered implications for NWMO's mandate and the range of reprocessing related questions that may arise in public dialogues.

The Council agreed to refer Dr. Rozon and Dr. Lister's work to NWMO for consideration, but are not suggesting NWMO undertake a specific work program on this issue. Mr. Frank King offered to meet with Dr. Rozon and Dr. Lister to have a more in-depth technical discussion on the issue. At the request of Council, the President agreed staff would report back in future as to NWMO's consideration of, and actions on, this item.

13. 2008 meeting calendar

The President reported that he may have an unavoidable conflict with the scheduled May 13 Advisory Council date and asked the Council if they would like to proceed with the meeting in his absence or re-schedule the meeting. The Council agreed to proceed with the meeting as scheduled providing Ms. Shaver was available to attend.

14. Advisory Council Planning - 2008

Ms. Shaver introduced the topic of Advisory Council planning for 2008. The Council was invited to consider :

- specific topics of interest or guest speakers that they would like to see at their 2008 meetings;
- topics for education orientation of interest to the Council;
- Interest in a site tour of a waste facility ; and
- What engagement activities might the Council be interested in attending throughout the year (i.e. Citizens' panels or Elders' Forums).

It was also noted that NWMO would build in an opportunity, as requested by the Council, to meet with Niigani in 2008.

The Council agreed that they would be interested in hearing from Eero Pattrakka of Posiva at their September meeting, and having a debrief on the Citizens Panels at an upcoming meeting. In addition, Members requested a "Technical 101" presentation at an upcoming meeting

NWMO committed to informing the Council of upcoming dates and topics for the Citizens' Panels and upcoming Elders' Forum.

15. In-camera Meeting

The Advisory Council convened without the presence of NWMO staff or management.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:15 pm.

Dated the day of , 2008

Corporate Secretary