

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: April 16, 2007 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 49 Jackes Avenue, Toronto, Ontario,  
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST. on April 16, 2007.

Present

Advisory Council:

Hon. David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Fred Gilbert	Member
Eva Ligeti	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

In Attendance:

Gary Kugler	Board Chairman (Except Item 9)
Ken Nash	President (Except Item 9)
Kathryn Shaver	Vice President, Corporate Affairs (Except Item 9)
Gillian Adshead	Assistant Board Secretary (Except Item 9)
Mike Krizanc	NWMO Staff (Item 3 only)
Pat Patton	NWMO Staff (Item 5 b only)
Frank King	NWMO Staff (Item 5 b only)

***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 reviewed and approved as written.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting, convened on February 21, 2007.

### ***DISCUSSION WITH NWMO***

## **3. Staff Report**

The Chairman invited the President to report on NWMO's recent activities.

By way of introduction, the President noted that NWMO continued to await a Government decision on NWMO's recommendation.

The President briefed the Council on the strategic planning session held with the Board on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board will convene at the end of April for its second strategic planning session.

The President provided an update on NWMO's efforts to build capability and depth within the organization. He reported that NWMO will consist of 25-30 people by year end and that the move into the new facilities should take place in June. Recent staff additions include: Anda Kalvins as Director - Corporate Environment, Ben Belfadhel as Manager, Used Fuel Repository Geoscience, and grad-trainee Michael Borelli. Cynthia Summers will join in the area of engagement and social research at the end of April. The search for another grad trainee is underway to assist with engagement. Work continues on longer-term human resource planning for the organization.

The President outlined a number of local and international meetings attended by NWMO staff.

Mr. Nash noted that Ms. Dowdeswell, the Special Advisor to the Board was progressing with her preliminary research work on the development of a collaborative siting process. Internal research, including "conversations" with practitioners and experts was continuing and a site visit to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico was in the planning stages.

Mike Krizanc joined the meeting to outline the media coverage sparked by a Toronto Star article about Ontario receiving the benefits from nuclear energy and its responsibility to manage the nuclear waste. The article resulted in a flurry of media calls and was followed up by some positive editorial comments as NWMO clarified that it would seek an informed, willing host community and would be working over the coming years to collaboratively develop a site selection process. Another article in the Globe and Mail a few days later continued to generate interest. It was the greatest amount of media attention garnered during NWMO's operation.

#### **4. Board Chairman's Update**

The Board Chairman updated the Council on the introduction of four new directors to the Board, bringing the Board complement to seven. Dr. Kugler reviewed the recent strategic planning session of the Board of Directors convened on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. He noted that NWMO provided a director orientation session in advance of the two-day strategic planning session of the Board in March, and highlighted key areas of focus that emerged from strategic planning with the Board.

The Board Chairman noted that the current Advisory Council appointments were set to end in June and would most likely be further extended to provide the new Board with the requisite time to consider membership requirements for the next phase of Council operations.

#### **5. a) Oversight and Advisory Capacities**

The President introduced this topic by providing an overview of the overarching areas for which advice and oversight will be required for the next phase, and how these areas might be coordinated. Mr. Nash recapped NWMO's business plan objectives and outlined NWMO's overall governance structure.

#### **5. b) Advisory Council – Planning for the next phase**

The President invited Council's input and advice on the next phase of Council's operations, for the early years of implementation. As context for the discussion Ms. Shaver reviewed the Advisory Council's mandate and membership requirements as set out under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

There was agreement amongst Council members that it was of utmost importance to maintain their independence. Council expressed a desire to ensure that it was not a part of the accountability structure; rather, its role is to provide advice to NWMO while maintaining its independence. However, in order to provide credible advice they must have access to substantive expertise.

It was noted that Council has an obligation to comment on both NWMO's social and technical work. While Council discussed its need to be able to adequately assess NWMO's technical and social programs during the implementation phase, there was agreement that it would be impractical to attempt to populate the Advisory Council with the full spectrum of technical and scientific areas of specialization relevant to implementation. It was emphasized that NWMO must have access to the full range of advisors through other mechanisms. Members also cautioned against creating an Advisory Council that was exclusively or heavily-weighted to technical expertise only, noting that a hallmark of NWMO work has been the integration of social and technical work. Both social and technical issues will be germane to realizing progress on implementation.

A full discussion ensued as Council considered the range of expertise that would be important to advise NWMO in future years. Council commented that while a drastic change to Council composition was unnecessary, it was proposed that there may be merit in broadening its scope of expertise with the addition of one or two members. Preliminary discussion touched on a range of possible disciplines that would strengthen Council's membership.

It was suggested that both NWMO and the Advisory Council would benefit from access to the views of independent peer reviewers of NWMO's work. NWMO shared some of its initial thoughts under consideration to provide international peer reviews of the technical program.

Discussion followed on the desirability of ensuring that a broad range of advice is available to NWMO. Council members acknowledged other advisory groups that NWMO will have access to for advice, such as the Niigani Aboriginal Working Group, Elders' Forum and future technical committees. It was suggested that it may be appropriate for Council to have opportunities to interact periodically with these other groups, by attending meetings and engagement activities.

In discussion, Council urged NWMO to ensure that mechanisms are put in place to invite comment and guidance from young people. NWMO reported that the organization's business plan includes development of a youth engagement strategy with a view to providing more focused attention to inviting the perspectives and advice of youth.

## **6. Strategic Planning: Phase 2**

The President summarized the discussion from the two-day strategic planning session of the Board of Directors on March 19-20. He then introduced a synthesis of the key proposals planned for tabling with the Board at the strategic planning session on April 30 that will help shape the development of the NWMO five-year plan. The process for reaching a final strategic plan by September was outlined.

The President invited the Council to comment on the draft strategic objectives. NWMO noted it will invite public input into the collaborative development and refinement of strategic objectives and implementation plans following a government decision. The Council discussed some of the important issues facing NWMO such as applications that have been submitted for building new nuclear plants and how they may affect NWMO in the near term.

## **7. Ongoing Review of Management Approach**

The President opened a discussion with the Council on how NWMO can ensure that planning processes also provide for regular reviews of NWMO's management plans for used nuclear fuel against the shifting external landscape. The Council discussed NWMO's need to consider strategic issues related to evolving changes in energy policy and other uncertainties affecting NWMO's operating environment.

Council acknowledged the fact that under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, NWMO has the ongoing obligation to manage all of Canada's used nuclear fuel for the long term. At the same time, members discussed that the NWMO study and recommendation, and public engagement, was developed against certain projections of used fuel associated with the operating lives of existing reactors. It will be important to acknowledge residual areas of uncertainty. Council emphasized that, if and when, decisions are taken in Canada, such as potential new reactors, that significantly change the volume or types of fuel that NWMO must manage, it would be important for NWMO to test the applicability of its existing plans for the social, ethical and technical appropriateness in light of these new

projections of used fuel. Further, it would be important to be transparent about such reviews, and provide for public engagement around these reviews.

**8. Next Meeting**

The Chair confirmed the date for the next Advisory Council meeting as September 13, 2007 from 9 am – 4 pm and outlined possible agenda items.

*NWMO staff and management withdrew from the meeting.*

**9. 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 4:15 pm.

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Dated the 13th day of September, 2007

Corporate Secretary