

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

DRAFT Record of Discussion: November 23, 2006 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 November 23, 2006.

Present

Advisory Council:

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

Regrets:

Helen Cooper	Member
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In Attendance:

Ken Nash	President (Except for Item 9)
Kathryn Shaver	Executive Director (Except for Item 9)
Gillian Adshead	Assistant Corporate Secretary (Except for Item 9)
Elizabeth Dowdeswell	Special Advisor to the Board (For Item 4)
Pat Patton	NWMO Staff (For Item 5)
Frank King	NWMO Staff (For Item 8)
Sean Russell	NWMO Staff (For Item 8)
Paul Gierszewski	NWMO Staff (For Item 8)
Mark Jensen	NWMO Staff (For Item 8)

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.

At the suggestion of the President, the Aboriginal Sub-Committee agreed to meet during the lunch break to provide advice to the organization.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting, convened on September 21, 2006.

DISCUSSION WITH NWMO

3. President's Report

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

The President and Executive Director updated the Advisory Council on their recent meetings in Ottawa and the process and protocol involved in a government decision. It was noted that NWMO will provide the Council with an updated communications strategy in advance of a government decision (*).

The Advisory Council discussed at length, the broader socio-political landscape and the range of nuclear projects underway. In discussion with NWMO, the Council noted the importance of communicating clearly on NWMO's mandate which addresses management of nuclear waste irrespective of decisions on the future of nuclear power. The President committed to reviewing NWMO's future communications materials to ensure that these issues are addressed as fully as possible and noted that these matters would be key elements in the Board's strategic planning sessions in 2007 (*). Strategic issues will be brought for discussion to the Advisory Council at the February 2007 meeting.

The President reviewed with the Council the organization's continuing transitional activities. Work continues to develop a sustaining organization to ensure continuity of staff and broadening the internal capability by integrating technical staff and recruiting graduate trainees in areas of social research and engagement. In his report the President confirmed that NWMO has secured new office space to accommodate a growing core group of staff with plans to move offices in the late spring. Also in preparation for implementation, NWMO hosted a session with the Joint Waste Owners to discuss a range of issues of mutual interest concerning nuclear waste management.

It was reported that the NWMO completed its 2007 business planning process with the final 2007 Business Plan to be presented to the Board at the November 24th meeting. The President highlighted the addition of a Corporate Citizenship program which will be defined in 2007. He reviewed with the Council preliminary thoughts on a possible focus for such a program. This program was unanimously supported by the Council who were eager to provide advice on the program's direction. The President committed to bring the program forward to the Council for discussion in the New Year (*). It was also reported that drafting of the 2006 Annual Report had begun for submission to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada in March.

The President reviewed NWMO's recent engagement and outreach activities. He noted that an Elders' Forum was held in October and that Pat Patton would be joining the

Advisory Council to provide a full briefing on this topic. One of the notable outreach activities included presentations made by Kathryn Shaver and Dr. Derek Lister at the Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference. Ms. Shaver's presentation focused on the NWMO Study, while Dr. Lister's concentrated on the role of the Advisory Council throughout the study.

To assist NWMO in further understanding the public's views on the topics of building institutional trust and credibility, a series of focus groups were convened in November. The President also reported that NWMO has become a collaborator and supporter of the Canadian Business Ethics Research Network, led by Dr. Wes Cragg at York University.

Internationally, it was noted that the UK government passed a decision accepting the recommendation of Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's for the long-term management of their higher activity radioactive wastes.

4. Update from the Special Advisor to the Board

Ms. Dowdeswell, the Special Advisor, joined the Advisory Council meeting and provided an update on the specific Phase 1 workplan activities for the collaborative siting process project. Ms. Dowdeswell reported that all of her activities were on track as per the workplan for 2006.

As well, she reviewed the numerous informal discussions that had been held with practitioners in many areas to maintain existing NWMO relationships and to brainstorm with experts to scope the siting process development. Ms. Dowdeswell reported to the Council that the 2006 work thus far had provided many opportunities for outreach to a variety of study participants who all indicated their interest in participating further in the future NWMO process.

During discussion, the Advisory Council specifically remarked about the challenge of sustaining broad public interest nationally and internationally throughout such a lengthy project. They stressed the importance of maintaining effective stakeholder relationships and communications. Some Council members underscored the need for the NWMO to maintain national and international engagement even as NWMO's process becomes focused on siting and implementation.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Dowdeswell for her update.

5. Report from the Elders' Forum

The Advisory Council received a report from Pat Patton on the second Aboriginal Elders' Forum held by NWMO in Toronto in October. The President noted that the opening dinner and ceremony was very well attended by NWMO staff and several Advisory Council members.

Key themes emerging from the two-day forum were the importance of meaningful involvement of participants in decision-making, the importance of education and capacity building for Aboriginal people and for the NWMO's understanding of Aboriginal culture, and the importance of making careful decisions to protect mother earth for future generations. Forum participants also expressed a need for NWMO to have awareness of treaty rights, formal consultation, and recent relevant Court decisions.

A significant outcome of the Forum was a proposal by participants to establish a working group as a means of developing a method for the Elders' Forum to be most helpful to the NWMO and for ongoing communication with the NWMO. The President noted that the intent of developing a working group was not for it to constitute formal Aboriginal consultation but to provide NWMO advice on engaging Aboriginal people at the national, regional and local levels. Further, the members of the working group will participate as individuals and not as representatives of any particular Aboriginal group. More in-depth discussions will be held with the working group, but general agreement had been reached that the Committee would comprise a balance of Elders and youth and would convene its first meeting in January.

Advisory Council members who attended the event reported that the Forum participants were both positive and constructive and expressed a keen interest in working with the NWMO. Members also expressed the importance of continuing involvement of youth in the Forum and in the working group. In discussion, the President noted NWMO's intent to recruit young interns, including an Aboriginal person.

The Advisory Council expressed strong support for the working group proposal and believed it to be an excellent opportunity for NWMO to communicate and maintain relationships with Aboriginal people. They suggested that the working group might wish to consider an Aboriginal name.

The Advisory Council commended NWMO on the Elders' Forum and the positive outcome of the desire of the participants to form the working group. The Advisory Council also commented that the working group might seek to reflect the gender balance consistent with that at the Elders' Forum and that NWMO seek opportunities for the working group to work cohesively with the Advisory Council. The President committed to bring forward these issues to the working group (*).

In closing, the Council members reiterated support for the continued engagement and underscored the significance of the opportunity presented to NWMO through the Elders' Forum and the proposed working group.

6. Update on Governance and Implementation Activities

The President reviewed the progress made by member organizations on the drafts of the new NWMO by-law and membership agreement, both of which are nearing completion in preparation for a government decision. It was reported that Members also met to discuss the funding formula.

The Chairman provided an update on the search in progress on behalf of OPG for additional directors. It is expected that new Board members would be in place early in 2007.

7. 2007 Meeting Calendar

The Advisory Council discussed and agreed on a proposed meeting calendar for 2007. The Assistant Corporate Secretary committed to sending out a revised schedule of meetings to the Advisory Council. (*)

8. Technical Research Program

The Advisory Council received an information briefing by staff leading the technical research and development program on used nuclear fuel. Presentations by Frank King, Sean Russell, Paul Gierszewski, and Mark Jensen outlined current and future plans for the technical program for long-term management of used nuclear fuel in Canada. The group reviewed the background of the technical program and provided detail on the three main program areas: repository engineering, safety assessment and geoscience.

The presentations highlighted the involvement of 57 professionals, 16 university professors and 15 students/post-doctoral fellows in the research program. Internationally, formal agreements with Sweden, Finland and Switzerland are in place to exchange information arising from their respective programs on nuclear waste management. Mr. King also reported the group's active participation in other international programs with the Nuclear Energy Agency and in underground research at the Äspö Hard Rock Laboratory in Sweden. The research program produces an average of 40 technical reports in a year.

In 2007, the program will focus on improving scientific understanding of technology and processes relating to engineering, geoscience and safety assessment; conducting additional research on sedimentary rock; leveraging research and development with international programs; developing a 5-year technical R&D plan; building scientific community support for NWMO's program and providing technical input to development of siting process.

Following the presentation, extensive discussion amongst Council members ensued. The Advisory Council asked questions regarding the extensive international cooperation within the technical research program. There was also discussion surrounding the technical recommendations resulting from the 1998 Seaborn Panel. Discussion followed on matters relating to climate change, biosphere effects, and safety assessments.

The Chairman thanked the four gentlemen for their informative presentations.

NWMO staff and management withdrew from the meeting.

9. In Camera Session

The Advisory Council convened a private session without the presence of NWMO.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 2:30 p.m.

Dated the 21st day of February, 2007

Corporate Secretary