Record 2002-01

Advisory Council to the

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: October 24, 2002 -- Orientation

Record of discussion of the first meeting of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization / Sociētē de gestion des dēchets nuclēaires (NWMO)

Held at Toronto, Ontario on October 24th, 2002, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Frederick Gilbert	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

Also in attendance:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President, NWMO
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary, NWMO
Donna Pawlowski	NWMO
Jo-ann Facella	NWMO
Ken Nash	Vice Chair of NWMO Board of Directors

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chairman called the meeting to order with his opening remarks at 8:30 a.m.

2. President's Remarks

Ms. Dowdeswell delivered a presentation to the Advisory Council, in which she summarized the legislative foundation for the work of the Council, the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*. The Act was tabled by the federal government in April 2001, and forms the legislative framework for the NWMO and Advisory Council. The Act was brought forward to provide a framework to enable government to make a decision on the management of nuclear fuel waste, based on a comprehensive, integrated and economically sound approach for Canada.

The presentation addressed the reporting requirements embedded in the legislation. The President also addressed the expectations for the NWMO that will underlie the consultation program ultimately adopted, relating to ethical and social assessment and institutional transparency gained through the widest possible adoption of consultation methodologies. In addition, she highlighted her intent that the organization meet these obligations through a collaborative working relationship with the Advisory Council and the Board.

Presentation slides were distributed to the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council discussed different elements of the workplan.

On communications:

- Council members felt that establishment of a ***website*** to support public dialogue will be key to support initial external communications with the organization. The NWMO should look to the most effective use of electronic communications, to supplement other models of outreach, such as roundtables and face-to-face stakeholder meetings.

- The Advisory Council felt strongly that it is important to establish a public identity with a ***corporate name*** that will be used consistently from the launch of the organization. Council members felt that a consistent name was important for organizational integrity, as was clarity in the title which will be key to supporting transparency on the intended focus of the organization. The President confirmed that while the legislation refers to a "waste management organization", the public name adopted for all future public communication from the organization will be the "Nuclear Waste Management Organization" (NWMO).

On consultations:

- While the Advisory Council will not be initiating their own consultations, they would look forward to providing advice on the NWMO's ***consultation plans***. The President intends to table a draft consultation plan for Advisory Council feedback at a future meeting.

- The Council expressed interest in having some initial ***benchmarking*** work undertaken as a means of measuring the effectiveness and impacts of the NWMO's consultation program as the work program progresses. The President indicated her intention to commission some public opinion research with a view to benchmarking public opinion as it currently exists at the outset of the NWMO study.

- Council members offered some suggestions for further areas of expertise that the NWMO may wish to seek along the way to support the process, including expertise in geology and perspectives of youth.

3. <u>Advisory Council Terms of Reference</u>

The Chairman addressed the terms of reference developed for the Advisory Council, which was distributed to the Advisory Council in advance. The Chairman extended an invitation to the Council members to comment on and offer advice on how to ensure the Council meetings and processes are effective.

The Chairman invited Council discussion on the role and proposed working arrangements.

On meeting dates, to facilitate planning Council members expressed interest in knowing future dates of Advisory Council meetings well in advance. The Chairman noted that the dates of future meetings will be subject to the work program and issues requiring discussion. The President anticipated that there would be approximately one Council meeting per quarter, with a meeting being planned for early in 2003 to review a draft consultation program, but would undertake to provide as much advance notice as possible.

On disclosure of compensation, in the spirit of transparency there was unanimous agreement among members that the Council's compensation should be disclosed if asked. The NWMO will undertake to provide Council members with some supporting comment on how the rates were established with consistency with similar organizations.

On inquiries from media, the Chairman emphasized that in support of openness and independence, Council members should be free to respond to inquiries from their local media. Some initial Q&As were prepared to assist with inquiries on the nature of the organization, and the Council process.

On format of future meetings:

- The Chairman noted that the Advisory Council has an independent role to play in fulfilling its obligations. In addition, the NWMO would benefit from establishing a close working relationship with the Advisory Council and Board. The Chairman tabled a proposal that the agendas set for Advisory Council meetings should reflect this dual sense of accountabilities. He proposed that the President be invited to attend, provide reports to, and participate in each Council meeting, but that each meeting should also provide for some time for ***in camera discussion*** restricted to Council members in recognition of their independent roles. The Council agreed to adopt this convention for future agendas.

- The Advisory Council agreed that NWMO staff will take ***minutes*** of Advisory Council meetings, for distribution to members. The NWMO will welcome Council feedback on the format and approach taken for the minutes.

On liaison with the Board of Directors:

- The ***Chairman*** of the Advisory Council will be invited to attend all Board meetings, providing him with direct access to Board deliberations.

- The Advisory Council registered their interests in having regular debriefs from the Chairman, shortly following the Board meetings, so that they may stay abreast of key decisions and discussions. It was felt that the more information the Advisory Council has, the better equipped they will be to offer ongoing advice to the Board and the NWMO generally. Frequent updates from the NWMO and/or Board would be appreciated so that the Council is informed and well prepared to represent with integrity and comment on the work of the NWMO. The Chairman agreed to debrief the Council following Board meetings. There was agreement that this may take the form of conference calls and/or written reports as is appropriate.

  The President proposed that NWMO staff take responsibility for preparing the regular written updates to the Council. An electronic ***report from the President*** will be sent out to Council monthly, providing there are developments to communicate. The Chairman will be invited to add further comment to the reports. The Council agreed to this approach.

On communications:

- It is anticipated that a ***news release*** will be issued to formally announce the Advisory Council appointments within the next couple of weeks. The President confirmed that the release would also be directed to home communities of the Council members.

- In preparation for a news release, Council members were asked to review the draft biographies distributed at the meeting, and provide edits or sign-off to the Corporate Secretary. Photos were taken at the end of the meeting.

- Council members may wish to share articles from local news media on the NWMO with the rest of the Council.

4. <u>Introduction to Used Nuclear Fuel and Current Storage Practices</u>

Ken Nash, Vice Chair of the NWMO Board of Directors, and Vice President of the Nuclear Waste Management Division at Ontario Power Generation, delivered a presentation to the Advisory Council on nuclear technology, the fuel cycle and storage practices.

The presentation slides were distributed to the Advisory Council.

His presentation outlined the Canadian nuclear program and described the Candu fuel technology. Mr. Nash described the current and projected used fuel inventories. He outlined the interim storage practices used today at different nuclear generating stations and laboratories in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Manitoba, and the regulatory and environmental approvals necessary to license these facilities.

The Advisory Council expressed interest in a number of follow up briefings on related technical aspects of Canada's nuclear program, such as decommissioning plans and an

environmental scan of the outlook for the nuclear sector vis à vis other generating technologies.

The Advisory Council requested a site visit of a nuclear facility to complement the briefings. The NWMO will undertake to arrange a visit.

5. Policy Reviews to Date

Donna Pawlowski, Manager-Strategic Planning for OPG's Nuclear Waste Management Division, provided a presentation to the Advisory Council on the evolution of the studies and policy setting related to the issue of long-term management of nuclear waste over last 25 years. Presentation slides were tabled with the Advisory Council.

The presentation described the reviews beginning with the process led by Ken Hare in 1977, through to the 1998 key conclusions of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Management & Disposal Concept Environmental Assessment Panel, led by Blair Seaborn. Ms. Pawlowski described the Government of Canada's policy direction in 1996-1998, including the response to the Seaborn Panel.

The presentation then described in detail the obligations of waste owners and the NWMO required by the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act.

- Ms. Pawlowski described the reporting requirements to government required of the NWMO, through annual reports, financial statements, the study of options, and triennial reports.
- She also described the study requirements, highlighting the need to explicitly consider societal issues (social, economic and ethical), and full consideration of risks, costs and benefits of proposed approaches.

The Council discussed the findings of the Seaborn process.

6. Agenda for Future Meetings

Mr. Crombie and Ms. Dowdeswell tabled some suggested topics for future Advisory Council meetings for Council consideration, which included

- international reviews, to take stock of developments in other jurisdictions
- stakeholder analysis, to track positions and impact of NWMO outreach
- the public landscape, to develop some benchmark information
- a session with Blair Seaborn, who might be invited to speak to the Advisory Council in the near future; and
- review of the NWMO workplan for Advisory Council feedback on proposed direction for the study and consultations.

Advisory Council members suggested other topics of interest:

- briefing on decommissioning
- briefing on the future outlook of the nuclear power sector & technological developments
- expert speakers/panels to address specific technical topics of interest
- models of consultation and outreach
- consultation approaches with the aboriginal communities; and
- discussion about how to measure and define ethical considerations in developing the framework of the study.

The President will develop a next Agenda, and welcomes Council suggestions.

With respect to timing, the Council suggested a comprehensive briefing on as many of these matters as possible in the near term. Council would be interested in a next meeting before Christmas. A suggestion was made to have longer meetings in the early part of the mandate, to allow the Council to invest more time up front. There was some interest tabled in having a longer session, perhaps over 2 days, including a Saturday.

The Chairman and President have taken these comments under advisement, and will look into possible scheduling for the next meeting.

7. General Administrative Matters

- Cheques were distributed to Council members at the meeting, for their quarterly installments of the annual honouraria, and per diem fees for the meeting.

- The Council requested that a contact list be forwarded to them, to facilitate communication amongst Council members.

- With respect to distribution of Advisory Council meeting materials, the Council was asked to provide the Corporate Secretary with their preferred phone, fax and email addresses for future distributions.

- The Council's preference is to receive meeting materials, binders and other significant items in hard copy through the mail/courier, to the addresses left with the Corporate Secretary. Where ever possible, back-up files sent electronically would be appreciated. For smaller items, electronic delivery via e-mail is preferred.

- The Council expressed interest in knowing what other countries are doing on the topic of nuclear waste management. The NWMO undertook to forward to the Council a weekly Nuclear Waste and Decommissioning News Scan, prepared weekly by Jo-ann Facella. A test run of the news scan will be sent out, to see if Council is interested in receiving it weekly.

8. Termination of Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 1:00 pm.

October 23, 2002 Meeting

The Advisory Council met as a group the evening of October 23, 2002. This was an introductory meeting, bringing together the Advisory Council members with the President and some members of the Board of Directors of the NWMO. Richard Dicerni, Chairman of the Board, welcomed the Advisory Council and made some introductory remarks with respect to his hopes and expectations for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Mr. Dicerni formally introduced the President, Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and the Chairman of the Advisory Council, David Crombie, who in turn welcomed the Advisory Council.

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the 5th day of November, 2002
Corporate Secretary