

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: January 10-11th, 2003 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization / Soci t  de gestion des d chets nucl aires (NWMO)

Held at Toronto, Ontario on January 10-11th, 2003, commencing at 3:00 p.m. on January 10th, and concluding at 4 p.m. on January 11th, 2003.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

Regrets:

Fred Gilbert	Member
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Also in attendance:

NWMO:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President, NWMO
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary, NWMO
Donna Pawlowski	NWMO
Jo-ann Facella	NWMO
Mike Krizanc	NWMO

Other guests:

Blair Seaborn	(Agenda Item 2)
Ric Cameron	(Agenda Item 3)
Jaime Watt, Dianne LeBreton	(Agenda Item 4)
Ken Nash	Vice-Chair, NWMO Board of Directors (Agenda Items 2 & 3)

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chairman called the meeting to order with his opening remarks at 3:00 p.m.

2. Guest Speaker and Discussion: Mr. Blair Seaborn

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Blair Seaborn, the former Chairman of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Management and Disposal Concept Environmental Assessment Panel.

Mr. Seaborn's presentation began with some introductory comments on the Panel's membership and the process that led to the final report to Government in 1998. He noted the range of public concerns registered during the Panel's review, and highlighted a number of the key findings and recommendations of the Panel. Mr. Seaborn also noted the government's response to the Panel process, as provided in the federal *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, brought into force in 2002.

In his presentation, some of the points made by Mr. Seaborn included:

- The importance of addressing the social and ethical issues alongside the scientific and technical considerations.
- The importance of sustained information and communication programs, and two-way dialogue, to ensure that the public is sufficiently informed to participate in the discussions.
- The interest of the NWMO's work to aboriginal communities, and the need for the NWMO to develop an effective process of outreach to these communities.
- The priority that Mr. Seaborn's Panel had attached to the establishment of an Advisory Council. He encourages the NWMO to seek the advice of the Advisory Council on a myriad of issues at each stage of the workplan, and encouraged the Council to offer their clear and strong advice to the NWMO along the way.
- The importance of public consultations to the NWMO mandate. With the Advisory Council's strengths and expertise, he encouraged the Advisory Council to offer advice to the NWMO President as consultation plans are shaped.

Mr. Seaborn referred Advisory Council members to the Panel's February 1998 final report as a useful reference document on a number of key topics such as: key issues identified by the Panel; the involvement of aboriginal people; social and technical perspectives of safety; public consultations; and recommended future steps.

Following the presentation, the Advisory Council engaged in an informal discussion with Mr. Seaborn on consultation processes to ensure a broad-based engagement of the public, and approaches that might be taken in reviewing the options.

Mr. Seaborn provided copies of his speaking notes for distribution to the Advisory Council.

3. The Outlook for Canada's Energy Sector and the Role of Nuclear

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Ric Cameron, Assistant Deputy Minister – Energy Sector, Natural Resources Canada.

Mr. Cameron delivered a presentation to the Advisory Council that positioned the management of nuclear fuel waste in the context of Canada's energy policy:

- He began with a profile of Canada's energy sector and its contribution to the Canadian economy. Mr. Cameron spoke to the energy policy underpinnings, and some of the broader challenges and opportunities anticipated in Canada's energy sector generally in future years.
- The Government sees nuclear generation as an important part of Canada's energy mix.
- Moving to the topic of nuclear power specifically, Mr. Cameron provided information on:
 - The nuclear fuel cycle, the legislative framework for nuclear energy, and the federal departments with oversight responsibilities relating to different aspects of Canada's nuclear sector.
 - Some of the key issues relating to Canada's nuclear energy policy, as we look to the future.
- The presentation concluded with an overview of the policy context around the management of Canada's radioactive waste.
 - In speaking about the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, he highlighted the *Act's* requirements concerning social considerations and Aboriginal consultations.
 - Mr. Cameron noted that transparency in NWMO operations is key, and that regular reports from the NWMO will be filed with the Minister on a regular basis.
 - Over the next three years, Natural Resources Canada will be preparing to receive and review the NWMO report with a view to making a thoughtful and timely decision on an approach on this fundamental public policy issue. In preparing to discharge their federal responsibilities and support government's decision on an approach, Natural Resources Canada will be seeking an open and transparent relationship with the public and with the NWMO.

An informal discussion with Mr. Cameron followed the presentation. Council members expressed concern over potential for confusion as Natural Resources Canada proceeds with Aboriginal consultations on a parallel track with the NWMO. Mr. Cameron agreed that there is a need for both organizations to share information on consultation plans. The Advisory Council expressed their appreciation for Mr. Cameron's presentation, and also expressed interest in meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources Canada at a future date.

Copies of Mr. Cameron's presentation were distributed to the Advisory Council.

4. Public Opinion Research

The Chairman introduced Mr. Jaime Watt and Dianne LeBreton of Navigator.

Mr. Watt reported on Navigator's qualitative research findings from the focus groups tested on behalf of the NWMO in November and December 2002 in seven different communities across the country. He shared with the Advisory Council some key insights gained from the focus group testing, and offered advice to the NWMO as to how the organization might proceed to effectively engage communities on the issues before the NWMO. Navigator concluded by referencing the next phase of their work on the quantitative survey research that will commence shortly.

Navigator tabled copies of their presentation with the Advisory Council members.

General discussion amongst Advisory Council members followed the formal presentation by Navigator.

5. International Overview

Donna Pawlowski, NWMO, delivered a presentation to the Advisory Council on the status of policies for long-term management of used nuclear fuel in different countries.

The presentation profiled the status of policy reviews and decisions taken in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, the U.S., Finland, Sweden and the European Union. The presentation highlighted that while some countries are at varying stages of siting and implementation of a management strategy, other countries have not yet determined their policy positions on how used nuclear fuel will be managed over the long term. The United Kingdom and France will be reporting to their respective governments with recommended approaches in 2006.

The Advisory Council was provided with copies of the presentation. Council was also referred to the note previously distributed, with highlights from the President's meetings in the United Kingdom.

6. President's Update

The workplan:

- In a year-end review, the President referred to the last quarter of 2002 as the *Soft Launch* phase of the NWMO – a period during which the focus was on the establishment of governance mechanisms, the Advisory Council and the NWMO office.
- The President tabled elements of the workplan for the Q1 2003, *Going Public*, phase of the NWMO:

- The *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act* requires that the NWMO submit an Annual Report to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada within three months of the end of each fiscal year. The first NWMO report will therefore be submitted by March 31, 2003.
 - The President outlined some of the contents of the report.
 - The President welcomes suggestions from the Advisory Council on messages or items for inclusion in the Annual Report.
 - It is proposed that a conference call be arranged in mid-February to support Advisory Council discussion of the draft.

- Other elements of the Q1 2003 workplan were discussed, including plans for further staffing, engagement of experts and dialogue with groups to gain perspectives and suggestions from youth, aboriginal and environmental interests, as well as provincial and federal governments, reactor site communities and parliamentarians.

Progress on the website:

- The President briefed the Advisory Council on the work under way to design the NWMO website, with the assistance of Brown Communications. A prototype of the website will be running by the end of January.

- The website will be a key consultation and communication tool to support dialogue with the public. Samples of draft website pages were distributed to the Council, illustrative of the approach proposed for the website.

Engagement:

- The President tabled a summary of “Highlights” from the introductory meetings held with a range of communities of interest in the latter part of 2002 in Ottawa and Toronto. She noted that in all cases, groups with whom she had met extended offers of assistance and desires to see the NWMO succeed in their mandate.

- A note was tabled with the Advisory Council, highlighting information gathered through the President’s meetings in the United Kingdom in December.

- The President tabled with the Advisory Council a document outlining the proposed architecture for the engagement process. Engagement plans for Q1 of 2003 were discussed, which will focus on dialogue to identify expectations from different communities of interest around the NWMO’s work.

- The President proposed to invite Lois Wilson to an upcoming Advisory Council meeting, to discuss the ethical framework and what the Seaborn Panel envisaged in that area of work. The Council confirmed their interest in having this session, including discussion with Ms. Wilson on the issue of safety from both the technical and societal perspectives.

- The President referenced the monthly reports that she distributes to the Advisory Council as a means of providing regular updates on the NWMO activities. She invited Council members to notify her in the event that they would like more detailed information on some of the NWMO activities.

Corporate identity and communications:

- The President shared with the Advisory Council for discussion the current draft document of “Vision, Mission and Values Statement” for the NWMO. Council offered suggestions for separating out values relating to code of conduct from those relating to the study objectives.
- The President updated the Advisory Council on the selection of a word mark and corporate identity for use on letterhead, the website and collateral material.
- Council members inquired as to the use of the name Used Nuclear Fuel Organization: Options Review. The President confirmed that a process is under way to confirm Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) as the legal name for use on all documentation.
- The President updated the Advisory Council on some upcoming speeches that she will be delivering. The Council is interested in receiving copies of the speeches when formal speaking notes are available for distribution.

7. Other Business

The Chairman tabled for discussion the topic of future meetings. Referring Council members to the draft *2003 Meeting Planner*, he invited a discussion around the proposed sequencing of Advisory Council meetings.

Following Council discussion, the following was agreed to:

February 2003 Conference Call:

- The NWMO will schedule a brief conference call in mid-February, the purpose of which will be to discuss and provide input into the NWMO Annual Report to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada.
- An 8:30 a.m. call will be scheduled (avoiding Mondays and Wednesdays).

March 2003 Meeting:

- A March Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled. The Advisory Council is interested in hearing presentations from Linda Keen (President, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) and Lois Wilson (formerly of Seaborn Panel). A visit to a nuclear facility will be planned for this or a subsequent meeting.
- This meeting will be scheduled to start on a Thursday evening, with a working dinner, continuing all day Friday.

May 2003 Meeting:

- A May Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled. A date will be sought prior to May 21st.
- A date will be sought that enables the meeting to begin Friday evening, continuing all day Saturday. Alternatively, a Thursday/Friday combination will be sought.

October 2003 Meeting:

- The Council agreed in principle to the proposed meeting, part of which would be held jointly with the NWMO Board of Directors. This timing is subject to confirmation with the Board of Directors.

On future meetings:

- With respect to the meeting that is being sought with the federal Minister of Natural Resources, the Chairman expressed an interest in having Council member participation in that meeting. It was suggested that the NWMO consider inviting the Minister to one of the upcoming Council meetings. The NWMO will explore the options with Natural Resources Canada.

8. In Camera Discussion

The Advisory Council held a closed session, in camera with the Chairman.

9. Termination of Meeting

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

24th day of February, 2003
Corporate Secretary