



NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES



November 2018

Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update

In 2018, engagement was conducted in Hornepayne with a focus on development of a set of values and principles that will guide the way we talk together and further explore the Adaptive Phased Management project. This is important as we begin a new phase of more detailed exploration of the project.

The principles will help guide community and NWMO discussions to explore what it would mean if the Adaptive Phased Management project were implemented in Hornepayne, including how we might come together in a partnership to implement the project. Over time, these discussions will also need to involve First Nation and Métis communities, as well as others in the area.

Values and principles to guide discussions

- **Safety** – Safety is paramount.
- **Learning and communication** – Continuous learning is needed for informed decisions.
- **Trust and accountability** – Mutual trust, respect and accountability are essential for success.
- **Inclusive collaborative relationships** – The broad range of interests and different points of view must all be at the table.
- **Environment** – Protection of the environment is a priority.
- **Community well-being** – The project must benefit the community during all phases.
- **Regional involvement** – Regional communities must be engaged in order to understand the project and effectively participate.

Summary of activities and community discussions about principles

Purpose of these community discussions

Hornepayne is one of several communities in Ontario learning about Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel (Adaptive Phased Management), and exploring the possibility of hosting the associated deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise, and other project components.

Since 2011, Hornepayne has been involved in a process of learning about the project and assessing whether it could be a good fit for the community, as part of the site selection process led by the NWMO. Preliminary studies conducted to date suggest the project has the potential to be implemented safely in Hornepayne, and align with Hornepayne's long-term objectives. Hornepayne and the NWMO are working together to begin more detailed discussions to explore, over the next several years, what it would mean if the project were implemented in the community.

The purpose of the recently completed community engagement was to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations. These principles will set the foundation for the way in which Hornepayne and the NWMO will talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project.

Exploring the potential for partnership

The project will only be implemented at a site that meets robust safety criteria. Once safety criteria have been met, the ability to develop a supportive partnership is an important consideration in selecting a preferred location for the project. This partnership would need to begin with Hornepayne, and also seek involvement of First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area.

In order to explore the potential for partnership, this next phase of more detailed discussions will consider how the project might be configured in order to align with Hornepayne's priorities and objectives. It will also explore the investments associated with the project which would be made in the near term and the longer term, and how the broader area would be involved.

Ultimately, the project will only be implemented in the area if a safe site for the repository can be identified, if Hornepayne is willing, and if a supportive partnership can be developed.

Engaging the community

Over the past several months, the NWMO and Township of Hornepayne engaged in conversations to gather community member input and feedback on the values and principles that should guide future discussions. Community liaison committee meetings and a drop-in session were advertised in the local newspaper (the Wicksteed Weekly), through the Hornepayne Nuclear Waste Community Liaison Committee's (NWCLC) website, and via posters in the community.

Activities included the following:

- The NWMO presented the "Partnership – Roadmap for Discussions" at the Hornepayne NWCLC's February 2018 meeting. The first step in the road map involves identification of common values and principles to guide more detailed conversations about the project.

- Preliminary conversations with a cross-section of residents occurred in summer 2018 through one-on-one discussions. A workbook seeking input on values and principles was used to guide the conversations; participants could provide their immediate feedback verbally, and/or had the options of providing written feedback and leaving it at the Learn More Centre, or emailing it to the NWMO by September 4. Staff were also available at the Learn More Centre to engage people who dropped by in discussion.
- Initial draft values and principles began to emerge through these conversations. The emerging values and principles were summarized and shared at the October 2018 NWCLC meeting, and the NWMO and Township of Hornepayne continued to seek input from community members. The initial draft values and principles, and the workbook, were available in the community office for people to add their perspectives, and there was continued outreach to community members to discuss values and principles in late October. Feedback was taken throughout the discussions, including comments and priorities that emerged during the review of the values and principles. In addition to the meetings with community members, some residents shared their comments and questions via email.
- Based on the engagement up until the end of October 2018, the initial draft values and principles were revised. On November 13, 2018, a community drop-in session was held in advance of the NWCLC meeting. The drop-in session at the Legion was publicly advertised through the Wicksteed Weekly newspaper, online through the NWCLC's Facebook page and website, and through posters distributed in the community. Residents were invited to review and comment on the revised draft values and principles. A workbook was used to support this discussion. The workbook was also distributed to NWCLC members in advance of their meeting.
- At the November 2018 NWCLC meeting, the NWMO and Township of Hornepayne provided an update presentation on the community conversations on values and principles, including the community drop-in session. The NWCLC passed a resolution stating acceptance of the values and principles, recommending that Council adopt them going forward in conversations with the NWMO.

Focus of discussion

The principles emerged from community discussions on three key questions:

1. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way Hornepayne and the NWMO talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project. What values or principles – i.e., rules or requirements – should guide discussions and future decision-making between Hornepayne and the NWMO? Why are these values and principles important?
2. What should we avoid doing while having partnership discussions?
3. Other suggestions or rules that should be considered?

These principles were the focus of further discussion at a community drop-in session in November:

1. Have we covered what is most important? Are there important values and principles that should be added?
2. Each value and principle has a short description. Can you suggest refinements to these descriptions that would make them clearer or the principles stronger?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Values and principles identified by the community

Seven principles emerged from these community discussions and are listed below in no particular order.

→ **Safety – Safety is paramount.**

There is a need to be flexible/adaptable as science and technology changes in the future – to continuously improve the project to maximize safety. Ongoing “learning and communication” includes enhancing understanding of the safety of the project, including transportation. Ongoing national and international co-operation will contribute to confidence in safety.

→ **Learning and communication – Continuous learning is needed for informed decisions.**

Ongoing, mutual learning and timely sharing of information is needed to support informed decision-making. A variety of engagement techniques and approaches must be used to meet the needs and expectations of a range of audiences that are at different stages in the learning process. Be open to opportunities afforded by an expanded suite of communication tools, building upon what has worked to date. Different perspectives on any topic need to be presented for discussion, and all questions answered.

→ **Trust and accountability – Mutual trust, respect and accountability are essential for success.**

There must be clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all parties in the discussion process. Certainty about “the rules” for the detailed conversations regarding the project will result in a more effective process, but flexibility may be needed to adapt as appropriate. Participants need to fully understand the process and timelines, so there are no surprises. Mutual respect, honesty, transparency, and accountability are essential for success.

→ **Inclusive collaborative relationships – The broad range of interests and different points of view must all be at the table.**

All sectors of the community must be provided the opportunity to be engaged – e.g., youth, seniors, elected leadership, land users, community groups, the general public, and others. All points of view – supportive, neutral or otherwise – must be heard with open minds and considered. The community must have the capacity – expertise and financial – required to participate equally and effectively.

→ **Environment – Protection of the environment is a priority.**

The social and economic benefits associated with the project must be balanced with the protection of other values such as wilderness. Appropriate policies and procedures must be in place to prevent or mitigate impacts, and effectively communicated to ensure community understanding.

→ **Community well-being – The project must benefit the community during all phases.**

Community well-being in Hornepayne must be enhanced by the project. People need to understand the changes the project could bring in terms of the economy, demographics, required infrastructure and services, as well as the challenges that will need to be addressed. Planning for the future – with or without the project – is required. Hornepayne must have a strong voice in ensuring its needs and aspirations are adequately met.

→ **Regional involvement – Regional communities must be engaged in order to understand the project and effectively participate.**

As the project has the potential to transform the community and the surrounding area, it is important that the larger region – including Indigenous communities – is involved in planning and implementation. Neighbours who have or are participating in the siting process should also be involved. The potential benefits of the project, as well as any potential impacts/risks, must be understood by neighbours.

Next steps

With these guiding principles as a foundation, next steps involve getting into the details of the individual facilities and components associated with the project. This will help build community understanding of the project and its various components, and pave the way for reflecting on where facilities might be located in the area, investments that would be required in the near and longer term to support implementation of the project, and how others in the area might be involved if the project were implemented in the area.

Ongoing engagement, discussions and learning may suggest refinements to these principles over time. These principles will be reviewed and refined as needed through these detailed discussions.

Other comments

During engagement, people also shared suggestions on next steps, and how to get more people involved in learning and discussions.

- Broaden the audience for engagement, and use a suite of tools and information sources that recognizes different ways of learning and levels of interest in the community.
- Increase emphasis on proactive engagement where the NWMO reaches out to community groups and individuals, in addition to open houses or community liaison committee meetings. This would allow for convenience, as well as an opportunity for additional one-on-one or informal group discussion; e.g., meetings with organizations in the community as part of their regular meetings or at special presentations.
- Consider use of livestreaming or webcasts for the NWCLC meetings, similar to those done for the recent municipal election “all candidates” meetings, and as planned for Township Council. This would allow people to watch from home at their convenience.
- Continue to build understanding of:
 - The project timelines and components, including the Centre of Expertise, in terms of the social and economic opportunities and challenges that need to be planned for. People need to understand the changes the project could bring in terms of the economy, demographics, required infrastructure and services, and who needs to be involved in planning.
 - The future steps in the siting process, including regional engagement with municipalities and Indigenous communities.

Learn more

Review the history of Hornepayne's involvement in the site selection process: www.nwmo.ca/hornepayne

Review the activities of the Hornepayne NWCLC: <http://clinfo.ca/hornepayne>

Read about the NWMO, Canada's plan and the site selection process: www.nwmo.ca