

Minister's Statement on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's 2011 to 2013 Triennial Report

As Canada's Minister of Natural Resources and Minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario, I am pleased to receive the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) 2011 to 2013 Triennial Report entitled *Learning More Together*.

This comprehensive report provides information to Canadians on the NWMO's progress toward a safe and appropriate plan to manage nuclear fuel waste produced in Canada over the long term in the best interests of Canadians and the environment.

The report chronicles the NWMO's engagement during the past three years with community leaders, stakeholders, and interested individuals in its efforts to find a community willing and suited to be the host site for a deep underground facility where nuclear waste would be stored. It also outlines the organization's work plan for the upcoming five years.

So far, I am encouraged by the results of the siting process, which was launched by the NWMO in 2010, to find an interested community. Twenty-two communities came forward to learn more about the plan and to express their interest in hosting a national facility. Through the NWMO's siting process of mutual learning and evaluation, there are now 14 communities continuing on in the process. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the communities and citizens that have come forward to help shape the direction of this plan and, at the same time, contribute to such an issue of national importance. Community involvement and engagement is an essential ingredient of this process.

I expect the NWMO will continue to build and strengthen its relationships with citizens and Aboriginal peoples. As the NWMO's work with the communities continues, it will expand outreach and educational activities to include surrounding communities and organizations that might have a role to play in the safe transportation of nuclear fuel waste.

As required by federal legislation, the owners of nuclear fuel waste take steps to ensure there is enough money to pay all of the costs of managing nuclear fuel waste over the long term. As of 2013, nuclear fuel waste owners have set aside approximately \$2.8 billion in trust for this project.

Canada's nuclear industry generates over \$6 billion a year in revenues, and provides direct employment for more than 30,000 Canadians. It is one of the main reasons why our electricity supply is among the cleanest in the world.

I acknowledge that the NWMO's task is challenging and it will take much time and energy to locate a willing host community. While this process is underway, the Government of Canada remains committed to monitoring and reviewing the activities of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to ensure that the organization fulfils its responsibilities under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

Greg Rickford
Canada's Minister of Natural Resources and Minister for the
Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario

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