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Phase 2 Preliminary Assessment Potential for Partnership

TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE AND AREA, ONTARIO



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H A R D Y
S T E V E N S O N
A N D A S S O C I A T E S

Phase 2: Preliminary Assessment – Potential for
Partnership

The Township of Ignace and Area

October 2019

Phase 2: Preliminary Assessment - Potential for Partnership

The Township of Ignace and Area, October 2019

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Abstract

The purpose of this report is to summarize the current understanding of the potential for partnership to advance the NWMO APM project in the Township of Ignace and area. Three criteria guided this assessment: 1) The level of support for the project at multiple levels; 2) The potential to identify a socially acceptable repository site; and 3) The potential alignment of the project with community aspirations.

Engagement, information gathering, learning and dialogue with community and area leaders and residents at multiple levels has occurred over an eight-year period which enables this assessment of the potential for achieving partnership. The conclusions drawn are based on the more recent 2015 to 2019 timeframe.

This assessment is being conducted as part of a site selection process initiated in 2010. The site selection process involves gradually narrowing down to focus progressively more detailed studies in areas with strong potential to meet the robust technical and social project requirements. The NWMO is working to identify a single preferred site for the deep geological repository and associated Centre of Expertise by 2023. The site selected will be located in a place with a supportive partnership involving the community that initially entered the site selection process and First Nation, Métis and municipal communities in the area.

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1.0 Introduction

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is responsible for implementing Adaptive Phased Management (APM), Canada's plan for the safe, long-term care of used nuclear fuel. APM involves the development of a large infrastructure project spanning many decades that will include a deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise for technical, environmental and community studies and other facilities.¹

In 2010, the NWMO launched a site selection process to identify a willing host community for a deep geological repository where Canada's used fuel can be safely stored. The site selection process involves nine steps, with the process currently at Step 3.² Step 3 is defined by two phases of preliminary assessments for each interested community. Phase 1 involved documenting current socio-economic conditions in the communities and then postulating what might be the possible implications of the APM project on community well-being (CWB) for each community and the wider area. For interested communities that successfully completed the initial screening in Phase 1, Phase 2 involves conducting a preliminary assessment of potential suitability and narrowing the number of communities that have expressed an interest in partnering with NWMO. The NWMO plans to complete all preliminary assessment work and to select one community/area to host the APM project by 2023.

This report summarizes the current understanding of the potential to develop the needed partnership required to advance the project in the Ignace area and neighbouring communities. The ability to achieve a partnership is one of three fundamental criteria being used to select a site (the two other criteria focus on safety and transportation).

Engagement, information gathering and dialogue with community and area leaders and residents has occurred over an eight year period and allows an assessment of the potential for achieving partnership. Conclusions drawn are based on the more recent 2015 to 2019 timeframe.

The potential for partnership is assessed using key factors that are described in the following sections. The information and insights, although based on extensive in-community and area engagement with community leaders, groups and residents over many years, are qualitative in nature.

While this report draws conclusions based on the assessment, the community and area engagement process and preliminary assessment studies are ongoing. More is to be learned by the community and the NWMO. Therefore, this report represents our understanding of the potential for partnership at this point in time.

Note that this report focuses on municipalities and other communities in the area.

¹ Nuclear Waste Management Organization, 2019. Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2019 to 2023. Page 5.

² Nuclear Waste Management Organization, 2019. Steps in the Process. (Available Online) <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Steps-in-the-Process>.

2.0 Approach and Methods

The approach to understanding the potential for partnership in the area, and methods used, were based on an extensive engagement program with multiple levels of leaders, groups, tenure holders, and residents. This section summarizes criteria and indicators used to assess the potential for partnership followed by an overview of the engagement program.

2.1 Partnership Assessment Criteria and Indicators

Over the course of the past eight years, progress towards partnership in Ignace has been considered in the context of the following three criteria and indicators:

- A. Support for the project
 - i. Measured at multiple levels namely the initiating community leadership and grassroots as well as the leadership and grassroots of neighbouring communities.
 - ii. Confidence in the safety case as measured by the degree to which any or all levels of the communities understand the safety case and what is their degree of confidence/acceptance of it.
 - iii. Support for field studies as measured by the degree of social acceptance of test boreholes.
- B. Potential to identify a socially acceptable repository site as measured by the degree to which community members are willing to discuss options and exchange ideas on the topic.
- C. Potential for the APM project to align with community and area aspirations for community well-being and development.

The assessment is summarized in Section 3 ('Potential for Partnership – Foundation Assessment') below.

2.2 Community Engagement and Other Sources of Information and Insight

The following is an overview of engagement activities conducted for Step 3, Phase 2 studies in the Ignace area in 2015 to 2019. The engagement activities served many purposes. Information learned from local and neighbouring community engagement supported the analysis of whether there is potential for partnership. Engagement also helped both the NWMO and Ignace and area communities learn about each other and the APM project. It also helped NWMO to understand social considerations as preparations were made for geotechnical and natural environmental field studies. Further, information was shared on the social considerations and community preferences for identifying test borehole drilling locations. Engagement occurred broadly and included, in an initial way, those people having knowledge of/interests in the borehole drilling sites (e.g. camp owners/operators, forestry organizations and trappers), and the leadership of municipalities in the surrounding area.

While the results of the engagement process are used to inform the preliminary assessment at this time, engagement is ongoing. That said, much of the engagement for Step 2, Phase 3 involved ensuring there was ongoing learning about APM and engagement about selecting a site for borehole testing.

2.2.1 Ongoing Learning

Ongoing learning about APM occurs through a wide variety of engagement mechanisms. People are informed about the project and in turn, all participants listen to each others interests and opinions. Communication and community engagement methods over the past eight years include:

- An extensive and routinely updated NWMO project website;
- Direct mail and email distributions on the project and NWMO sponsored events;
- Monthly Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) meetings that are advertised and are open to the public;
- Council updates with public agendas and media coverage;
- ICNLC sponsored website;
- Local initiative programs;
- Radio advertising for an open house;
- Written responses to dozens of topical questions from community members;
- The setup and operation of project Learn More Centre at a storefront location in Ignace;
- Community 'Learn More' briefings and site tours (with community members and school students) of the Darlington and Pickering Waste Management Facilities, McMaster University Nuclear Reactor and the Oakville Proof Test Facility;
- Community briefings to service clubs and community organizations;
- Attendance at community events including fall fairs, lunch and learns, dinner meetings and pop-up booths and displays;
- Many one-on-one interviews with community leaders about the project;
- Community leadership and resident participation at several national and international nuclear-focused conferences; and
- Community leadership participation at regional events (e.g. Kenora District Municipal Association, Northern Ontario Municipal Association, etc.).

2.2.2 Site Selection for Borehole Testing

Over the 2016 to 2019 period, community engagement focused on borehole drilling in support of the APM project field studies and the siting process for a deep geological repository. Discussions about partnership were also initiated with Ignace leaders. Ongoing engagement activities and dialogue occurred with the neighbouring communities of the City of Dryden, Wabigoon Village², and the Local Services Board of Melgund (including the hamlets of Borups Corners and Dymont).

The NWMO gathered public comments regarding the acceptability of the proposed borehole sites through a series of one-on-one meetings, discussion at fall fairs, meetings with community groups, interactions with people dropping in to the Learn More Centre, attendance at local and area events, ICNLC meetings, and open houses.

² Wabigoon Village is in an unorganized area which is serviced by the Wabigoon Local Services Board.

The following is a summary of the borehole testing engagement activities that the NWMO undertook for Phase 2 from 2014 to present and related engagement activities. See **Appendix A** for a summary table of the engagement events.

I. Initial and preliminary engagement activities (e.g. walking the land) to obtain public comments on the potential borehole drilling areas.

In 2014, the NWMO began to discuss the plan for airborne surveys, observing general geological features and geophysical and environmental mapping and environmental fieldwork that helped identify potential social, economic and cultural considerations related to the withdrawal area³. The airborne surveys were discussed at 2014 CLC meetings, an open house and through other engagement activities in the area. CLC members also discussed the planned work to observe general geological features and geophysical and environmental mapping.

At this preliminary stage, engagement occurred on a one-on-one basis as well as small group meetings. During the ‘walking the land’ activity in 2014 through 2016, the NWMO engaged with local individuals who had knowledge of or interests in the withdrawal area to gain their insights about the local conditions and to discuss their questions and concerns regarding the field work.

II. Formal presentation of plans for borehole drilling.

At the ICNLC meeting held on July 12, 2016, the NWMO formally presented its plan to investigate the geology by initiating borehole drilling in the Ignace area. Information was shared through a PowerPoint presentation about the borehole drilling process and associated geotechnical and natural environmental studies. A brochure explaining borehole drilling was distributed to ICNLC members, made available to the public at the Learn More Centre and published on the NWMO web site.

To gather additional data from residents of Dryden, Northwestern Ontario and the wider region, the NWMO shared information explaining the plan to conduct borehole drilling at a booth at the August 2016 Dryden Fall Fair. Proposed borehole drilling information was made available to approximately 400 members of the public who visited the booth and comments were documented.

III. Engagement activities to receive comments on 14 potential borehole areas.

Based on the geological mapping, the NWMO identified 14 potential areas for borehole drilling in Ignace and the vicinity. Each area was large enough to allow many boreholes to be drilled. The public was asked which of the 14 areas they would prefer based on social, cultural and environmental considerations.

³ A withdrawal area is an area that has been withdrawn from the claim staking process and is the area within which permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to conduct borehole drilling was being proposed.

On October 25, 2016, the ICNLC participated in a facilitated mapping conversation in a workshop setting to solicit their comments on the identification of acceptable borehole areas. ICNLC and residents were informed that the borehole areas could possibly be a future site of the repository.

For the broader public, a well-attended open house was held at the Ignace NWMO Learn More Centre on October 26 and October 27, 2016. Mail drop invitations were distributed and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper (the Driftwood) to promote the request for comments. Like the ICNLC process, attendees participated in a mapping activity and social and environmental considerations were identified. To inform the public about what borehole drilling involved, a borehole drilling rig was set up outside the Learn More Centre for the duration of the two-day open house staffed by drill rig operators.

Participants at the ICNLC meeting and the open house were asked to consider three guiding questions:

- What is it important to know about each of the areas identified on the map, before decisions are made about where to focus borehole drilling at or near a potential repository site?
- What about each area would make it a good site to drill a borehole? What, if any, concerns would you have?
- Are some of these areas preferred over others for initial boreholes? Which ones? Why?

From these mapping conversations, specific social, economic, and natural environmental considerations were identified in relation to each of the 14 potential areas by ICNLC and open house attendees. Several potential borehole drilling areas were identified by the public as being preferred with the Revell area being most preferred.

IV. Engagement activities to identify the initial borehole drilling site within the Revell area and to receive comments on the proposed borehole site.

On January 31, 2017, ICNLC members were presented with the general findings of the October 2016 open house. They were informed that the Revell area was preferred by the public as a borehole drilling area.

During the ICNLC meeting held on February 28, 2017, ICNLC members discussed the initial borehole drilling site 1 within the Revell area. The ICNLC members supported the location of the first borehole site.

Open houses to inform people of the borehole drilling site and related activities were held March 1 and March 2, 2017 at the Learn More Centre in Ignace and at the Wabigoon Memorial Hall in Wabigoon Village March 2, 2017. Mail drops occurred and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper (the Driftwood) to promote the events.

Regarding the Revell area and borehole site 1, before borehole drilling occurred, participants at the ICNLC and open houses were asked to consider the question:

- Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural or natural environment matters in relation to this site? If so, what are they and how should they be addressed?

The ICNLC members and participants at the open house were supportive of the borehole 1 site. No substantive effects of the borehole drilling process on social, cultural economic or natural environmental

considerations were identified. Participants expressed an interest in learning more about the temporary access roads.

V. Engagement activities to further discuss the drilling activities for the initial borehole site (borehole 1) and to introduce boreholes 2 and 3 and temporary access roads.

At the ICNLC meeting held on June 27, 2017, the NWMO presented its plans to undertake additional borehole drilling in the Revell area. ICNLC members were asked for their input on any social, economic, cultural or natural environment matters in relation to boreholes 2, 3 and the temporary access roads.

At the July 20, 2017 ICNLC meeting, a presentation was given by the NWMO that provided a technical update on the drilling of borehole 1 as well as future boreholes 2 and 3 and the temporary access roads.

An open house event was held at the Ignace NWMO Learn More Centre on Thursday, July 21, 2017. A community information update was held in Dymont on July 22. Mail drops occurred and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper (the Driftwood). On August 23, an information update was held at Wabigoon Village.

The NWMO had a display booth with the Used Fuel Transportation Package (UFTP) exhibit at the Dryden Fall Fair on August 24 to 26, 2017. Over the course of the three days, over 350 attendees from Dryden, the surrounding area of Northwestern Ontario and the United States stopped by the booth for information on the project. The goal of the NWMO booth was to share information and gather comments and concerns about any social, cultural or environmental considerations related to the sites of boreholes 2 and 3 and the temporary access roads; and to present the potential design for the fuel bundle transportation container.

Participants at all the events were asked to consider the two guiding questions:

- Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural or natural environmental matters in relation to boreholes 2, 3 or the temporary access roads?
- If so, what are they and how can they be addressed?

Participants had many questions and comments on the borehole process, geology and natural environment. However, given the isolation of the Revell area, participants had few comments on the specific locations of boreholes 2 and 3 and the temporary access roads. The location of boreholes 2 and 3, being in close proximity to borehole 1, was noted. Participants were interested in the technical aspects of the drilling process, fieldwork timing and the NWMO procurement process.

VI. Engagement activities to further discuss the drilling activities for the initial borehole site (borehole 1), boreholes 2 and 3 and temporary access roads and boreholes 4, 5, 6 (and additional boreholes) and additional studies.

At the ICNLC meeting held on June 19, 2018, the NWMO presented its plans to undertake additional borehole drilling in the Revell area. NWMO staff provided information via a PowerPoint presentation. ICNLC members were asked for their input on any social, economic, cultural or natural environment matters in relation to proposed boreholes 4, 5, 6 and additional studies.

At the July 20, 2018 ICNLC meeting, NWMO presented a technical update on proposed boreholes 4, 5, 6 and geotechnical and natural environmental studies.

An open house was held at the Ignace NWMO Learn More Centre on July 21, 2018. On August 22, 2018, an information update was held at Wabigoon Village. Mail drops occurred and advertisements were placed in the local newspaper (the Driftwood on July 11 and 18, 2018) to promote the events.

The NWMO had a display booth at the Dryden Fall Fair on August 23 to 25, 2018. Over the course of the three days, there were almost 300 attendees from Dryden, the surrounding area of Northwestern Ontario and the United States that stopped by the booth for information on the project. The goal of the NWMO booth was to provide information and gather any social, cultural and natural environmental comments and concerns about sites of the additional boreholes and studies.

An open house was held in Dymont on October 20, 2018. Local residents participated in a roundtable discussion about the boreholes and additional studies. Trapping interests were also engaged and provided the NWMO with further comments on natural environment and trapping related to proposed boreholes 4, 5 and 6. At the November 20, 2018 ICNLC meeting, NWMO presented a technical and operational update on the results of drilling borehole 1.

A publicly advertised open house was held in Ignace on April 4, 2019 and a publicly advertised community update was held in Dymont on May 4, 2019. Mail drops, a flyer and social media posts advertised the open house and a flyer advertised the community event (week of March 26, 2019). Additional comments were provided by residents on boreholes 4, 5, 6 and the additional studies.

An open house was held at the Ignace NWMO Learn More Centre on August 1, 2019 to engage seasonal residents. The mobile Learn More Centre was available for participants to learn about the Learn More process as well as the used nuclear fuel transportation process. The NWMO had a display booth at the Dryden Fall Fair on August 22 to 24, 2019. Over the course of the three days, there were almost 350 attendees from Dryden and the surrounding area of Northwestern Ontario that stopped by the booth for information on the project.

Participants at the 2018 and 2019 events were asked to consider the guiding questions:

- Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural, or natural environment matters in relation to boreholes 4, 5 and 6? If so, what are they, and how should they be addressed?
- Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural or natural environment matters related to other areas in Oval A (Revell), in which up to four additional borehole sites may be identified based on ongoing geological studies? If so, what are they, and how should they be addressed?
- Do you have any comments on the studies to undertaken and how these will be conducted?

Participants asked many questions and provided comments on the APM project and study process including: security, transportation, APM underground design, used fuel containers, location of waterbodies, length of operation, why locate in the north, current location of used fuel, mushroom harvesting in the area and whether minerals were identified. Participants had no further comments or considerations in relation to the locations of the additional boreholes as the boreholes were in close proximity to boreholes 1, 2 and 3 and temporary access roads. Participants were interested in the technical aspects of the drilling process, fieldwork timing and the NWMO procurement process.

Please see **Appendix B** for the comment form and map of the additional boreholes and **Appendix C** for a brochure on the additional studies.

2.3 Partnership Roadmap Discussions

Beginning in 2018, the NWMO, and the Township of Ignace engaged in conversations to gather community member input and feedback on the set of values and principles for exploring partnerships. The NWMO and the communities are now at the point of beginning collaborative discussions to look at the project in more detail to understand what it would mean if the project were implemented in the area. These discussions will also explore how the project would be configured to fit with community and area's priorities and objectives. Through these conversations the NWMO and Ignace will develop a clear picture of the benefits for the community and area and determine any challenges or risks for implementation.

The partnership roadmap discussions began with discussion of the values and principles being used to guide more detailed discussions. The values and principles were identified in 2018 and discussions to develop a shared vision of the project are proceeding through 2019 and on. Specific partnership roadmap discussion activities are outlined below:

- In the Fall of 2017, a subgroup of the ICNLC was formed to create a workplan for the establishment of a working group comprised of community members to develop an initial set of values and principles for partnership. The first working group meeting was held in February 2018 and involved the identification of common values and principles to guide more detailed conversations about the project. A second meeting of the working group was convened in March 2018 to reflect on the values and principles and share further input.
- The set of possible values and principles was examined by the ICNLC at their April 2018 meeting. An April 2018 open house on the values and principles was also held at the Ignace Learn More Centre and a series of meetings occurred with Ignace community groups. The open house was advertised in the local newspaper (the Driftwood), and through Facebook and community mailout. At all of the events, a workbook seeking input on values and principles was used to guide the discussion; residents and ICNLC members could provide their immediate feedback verbally and/or written feedback through the workbook. NWMO staff were also available at the Learn More Centre to engage people who dropped in.
- A third working group meeting was held in May 2018 to discuss the public feedback and to finalize the values and principles which have been passed by Council.

2.3.1 Identification of Values and Principles and Next Steps

For Ignace, a robust set of values and principles emerged and are publicly available on the NWMO website. The values and principles will guide the NWMO and the community as they work together to advance the partnership. The principles and values are part of an iterative process and refinements may be made based on ongoing engagement, discussions and learnings.

See **Appendix D** for the Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update document.

3.0 Potential for Partnership

This is our analysis, based on the comments and concerns identified and documented throughout the engagement process.

3.1 Support for the Project

Overall, support for the APM project in Ignace and its surrounding area is strong and has been for many years. Evidence to support this conclusion is supported by three observations:

1. Support for the project can be demonstrated at multiple levels;
2. There is widespread public confidence in the safety case for the project; and
3. There is public support for field studies and the identification of socially acceptable test boreholes within the communities.

The following sections describe the degree to which the initiating community of Ignace and neighbouring communities express support and desire for the project at multiple levels.

3.1.1 Support for the Project at Multiple Levels

Four levels of support were examined with observations made and conclusions drawn:

1. Ignace leadership (e.g. Mayor, Municipal Council, staff, key community influencers)
2. Ignace grassroots (e.g. local residents)
3. Neighbouring community leadership (e.g. Dryden, Wabigoon Local Services Board, Melgund Local Services Board)
4. Neighbouring community grassroots (e.g. local residents)

Ignace is the initiating community formally in the Learn More process. Neighbouring communities closer to the Revell site were actively engaged. For example, the Local Service Boards of Melgund and Wabigoon Village are located close to Ignace and the Revell area where borehole drilling is occurring. They are considered neighbouring communities and residents were actively informed and engaged in dialogue in relation to the APM and borehole drilling. Because they may experience positive or negative effects as a result of the APM being located close to the Revell area, their support is important to advance the APM project in the area.

As a neighbouring community, Dryden has self-identified as having an interest in the decision-making process. Representatives of Dryden have sat on the ICNLC for many years. While Dryden is the largest Northwestern Ontario community near Ignace, they acknowledge and accept that Ignace is the community engaged in the Learn More process and leading the dialogue with NWMO. To support learning, Dryden leaders and grassroots residents continue to be engaged as they are supported by the 'Resources to Support Engagement of Neighbouring Communities in the NWMO Site Selection Process' program. This is a program that provides funding and support for communities who wish to learn more about the APM process.

Levels of Support

Through interviews and multiple other communications activities, we have concluded that Ignace leaders are aware and strongly supportive of the APM repository being located in the Ignace area. Formal and informal Ignace leaders have been actively involved in learning more about APM for many years. Newly elected leaders on Municipal Council in 2018 are supportive. They have accepted proceeding with boreholes 4, 5, 6 (and additional boreholes) and the additional studies. They have received regular one-on-one updates from the NWMO and interest in the project has also been demonstrated through community involvement with the ICNLC.

The Mayor is supportive of the project and the previous Mayor continues to be involved and supportive. Members of the ICNLC are also reaching out to neighbours and communities in the broader Kenora District area. There is evidence of a growing understanding and acceptance among regional leaders that social and economic benefits could occur broadly. ICNLC members and Ignace leaders are actively engaged in partnership discussions with the NWMO (e.g. the establishment of the Partnership Working Group).

The broader Ignace public and grassroots are aware of and strongly support the APM project in the area. We observed broad-based grassroots awareness of the APM project and borehole drilling. Awareness extends to a broad range of community members. For instance, some camp owners have expressed concerns about potential economic impacts on their operation or effects on the natural environment. They are interested in economic benefits and natural environment impact avoidance activities.

Outreach for borehole drilling engaged newcomers to the APM siting process, with some people learning about APM for the first time. Newsletters have been regularly distributed throughout the community. Residents are eager to attend Learn More tours at the nuclear generating stations and the Oakville Proof Test Facility. They welcome more opportunities to participate in such trips. There may be a few residents who are not aware and some residents who have chosen to not be engaged. Given the many years of engagement with the Ignace and area communities, there is high certainty that grassroots residents are aware of the project and in favour of APM proceeding.

As evidence of broad grassroots awareness, local groups use the Learn More Centre as a gathering space (e.g. Healthy Communities Working Group meetings, etc.). Many people who would not normally receive NWMO APM information are thus receiving the information through other means. For example, the NWMO and ICNLC sponsored safe food handling courses at the Learn More Centre. These courses assist residents to qualify for tourism jobs and fundraising activities requiring food to be served. People who were not aware of the NWMO before participating in these community programs experience the Learn More facility, see what APM entails and learn about the borehole sites as the possible future site of the repository.

While there are some groups and hard to reach individuals yet to engage, the level of NWMO engagement to date has been strong. Residents at NWMO open houses and other community events have voiced support for the project and encourage the NWMO to “get on with the project”. Through the June 2019 interviews, it was noted that residents felt that the pace of NWMO engagement was

being conducted correctly. They stated they were assured that NWMO was taking the time to proceed safely and protect the natural environment. They indicated that the natural environment and the opportunity to hunt and fish is centrally important to their quality of life.

As additional evidence of grassroots engagement and support, the NWMO has been in the community for many years without vocal opposition through traditional media and local and national interest groups. That said, interviewees noted that there is an active Facebook group that posts anti-NWMO/Ignace comments. The local residents point out that the people making the negative posts do not necessarily live in Ignace or Ontario. While NWMO continues to engage broadly, there is solid evidence that grassroots members who have been engaged are supportive.

Leaders of neighbouring communities have strong support for the APM project. NWMO and Ignace leaders have succeeded in building and maintaining relationships with other communities (e.g. Dryden, Wabigoon Local Services Board [LSB], and the Melgund Local Services Board [LSB]). These communities are also engaged in learning about APM and understand the key decisions needed to advance the project.

The Mayor and senior staff from Dryden attend community events in Ignace and have expressed their support. Wabigoon LSB and Melgund LSB leaders receive information updates through workshops in the communities and attend workshops and open houses. Comments or concerns are noted.

Based on interviews with Ignace and Dryden municipal staff and leaders there is confidence that partnership can be obtained to advance the project in the area. Multiple interview participants also pointed to a growing understanding and acceptance that all of Northwestern Ontario may benefit from the partnership. As a result, there is leadership support for APM in neighbouring communities.

Grassroots participants in neighbouring communities show support for the project. Grassroots participants in the neighbouring communities of Dymont (Melgund LSB) and Wabigoon Village (Wabigoon LSB) receive information updates, attend community events, engage in dialogue at workshops and open houses and have expressed support. Participants also identified through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry permitting process (e.g. trappers, sustainable forestry license holders, etc.) are supportive.

There is also broader grassroots interest in neighbouring communities and support from those who have become aware of the project. For example, engagement with neighbouring community and area residents at fall fairs has been strong. Some Dryden residents have attended Learn More facility tours. There is awareness among Dryden residents of the potential location of the APM project in the Ignace area and few if any residents have expressed concerns. To continue to engage neighbouring residents at a grassroots level, NWMO attended the Dryden Fall Fair in 2019, the 2019 Dryden Home and Sport Expo with other events where engagement can occur.

In summary, there is strong support for and awareness of the project in Ignace and neighbouring communities at the leadership and grassroots level.

3.1.2 Public Confidence in the Safety Case

A second important indicator is whether these same groups are confident in the safety of the APM.

Community leaders have expressed their confidence and strong support for the safety case. NWMO safety specialists attended many community meetings and have been transparent as they shared information about safety. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff also attended community meetings independently of the NWMO. They explained their role as safety regulator and engaged in dialogue with leaders and grassroots residents. Safety concerns are addressed to the satisfaction of community leaders and they are supportive. For example, safety was discussed and infrequently raised as a concern by the Ignace leadership during one-on-one interviews. Moreover, safety was rarely raised as a concern and safety issues were not the focus of discussion at ICNLC meetings or open houses.

We have concluded that there is broad support and acceptance of safety among community members at the grassroots level in Ignace. The presentation of the used fuel transportation package exhibit and the borehole drilling rig in Ignace in 2017 and comments noted lead to the conclusion that local residents are confident about the safety of the project. Residents were interested to see the core sample and drilling equipment and there has been significant turnout at events where these exhibits have been featured. In 2018, residents were just as interested in seeing the retrieved borehole core samples. Most people were curious and comments centered on how core sampling occurred, how many workers will be on site and timelines for drilling. Many were surprised about the small footprint of the drilling site. There were suggestions that the core samples remain in Ignace as part of local natural heritage.

That said, there are some residents who are still learning about APM. For other people, the project is seen to be so far in the future that it is not seen as affecting their daily lives. Thus, they have not taken the time to form a view on the safety case.

Neighbouring community leaders were presented with safety information and, based on their comments, accept that the APM project can be managed safely and strongly support the safety case. For example, leaders from Dryden acknowledged that the Learn More nuclear facility tours have been very effective in clarifying safety considerations and presenting the safety culture. They are aware that both NWMO safety specialists and CNSC specialists have engaged the Ignace community. Safety has not been mentioned as an issue by these leaders.

At the neighbouring community grassroots level, NWMO attendance at the Dryden Fall Fair allowed for discussions about the safety case with hundreds of residents from across the region as well as those from the United States. Neighbouring community grassroots are somewhat supportive of the safety case. Residents from Wabigoon LSB have also been on Learn More nuclear facility tours. These tours have been very effective in terms of helping in the understanding of the safety case. Few residents are opposed after getting questions answered.

In summary, there is confidence in the safety case in Ignace and neighbouring communities at the leadership and grassroots level.

3.1.3 Support for Socially Acceptable Test Borehole Sites

A third indicator is whether support is expressed through people supporting field studies and borehole drilling.

In terms of local support, borehole drilling is underway and has been continuously supported by Ignace community leaders. Strong support for borehole drilling was further expressed through one-on-one discussions with the current and previous Mayor of Ignace as well as Ignace Council.

There is strong support among other non-elected leaders for borehole drilling and field studies based on comments noted at ICNLC meetings, interviews and open houses. Borehole drilling was discussed and supported by the ICNLC prior to each open house since 2016. As an example, at the open houses, community leaders pointed to borehole areas and sites that would be socially acceptable.

The NWMO reached out to various Ignace grassroots community groups and members of the general public about the borehole drilling process and support was expressed. For example, members of the public were actively engaged in the selection of acceptable borehole areas and the selection of the Revell area. Publicly advertised and strongly attended open houses on the subject of borehole drilling were held in Ignace 2016 to 2019. Feedback from the grassroots community attending open houses and visiting the Learn More Centre, also indicates that participants are strongly supportive.

Neighbouring community leaders associated with the Wabigoon LSB and Melgund LSB expressed support through one-on-one and public workshop discussions about borehole areas and sites with NWMO representatives. The LSB leaders showed willingness to engage on discussions surrounding the field studies. This support has been continuous since borehole drilling engagement was initiated in 2016 as well as at other community events discussing borehole studies and field investigations.

Publicly advertised borehole drilling open houses were held in Wabigoon Village and Dymment 2016 to 2019. The NWMO received positive feedback on borehole drilling activities from neighbouring community grassroots residents during each round of borehole drilling engagement. Moreover, the NWMO discussed the borehole drilling process regionally through engagement activities at the Dryden Fall Fair in 2016 to 2018. This resulted in a positive response and show of support from hundreds of members of the community. Residents asked intelligent and knowledgeable questions and were aware of the borehole sites as possible future repository sites.

In summary, there is a willingness to engage in Ignace and neighbouring communities at the leadership and grassroots level and strong support for the borehole drilling and field investigations.

3.2 Potential to Identify a Socially Acceptable Repository Site

In addition to whether people support the project (as discussed in Section 3.1) we examined whether there is potential for social acceptance of the site for the APM project.

Strong leadership support for the APM repository site in the Ignace area was expressed by the former Mayor and Council and continues with the new Mayor and Council. The new Mayor has been at ICNLC meetings and the recent April 2019 open house on borehole drilling and additional studies. There is awareness and support for the location of the first three boreholes as well as borehole 4, 5 and 6 and

additional boreholes. There has been no significant difference in comments and no concerns raised about the Revell site over this time period. Other informal community leaders have been engaged and also express support for boreholes in the Revell area.

Engaged grassroots participants in Ignace also expressed acceptance and support for a repository site in the area. Through the engagement activities on borehole drilling, the NWMO gained insight into the social considerations within the Revell withdrawal area, as well as identified certain geological and natural environmental features used by residents (e.g. fishing lakes and camp sites). Many community residents provided input on where they believed appropriate borehole sites (e.g. repository) should be located as well as those that were undesirable. Participants understood that their comments at the open house represented an additional step toward finding a socially acceptable location for the repository in the Ignace area.

There have been some concerns from tourist operators, outfitters and lodge owners about the Project's effects on tourism. Interviewees stated that some tourists have expressed concern. In contrast, some camp operators stated that their customers had no concerns. That said, most people acknowledged that given its relative isolation, they had not been to the Revell area.

As NWMO engages on the boreholes, people who are new to the process continue to self-identify. NWMO staff take the time and bring people new to the process up to date on the project and the borehole drilling and these residents have been supportive. At the same time, there are residents who have been engaged from the beginning of the Learn More Process and have continually updated their knowledge. People who have been actively involved since the beginning are looking for new information at every engagement event.

We observed whether neighbouring community leaders accept whether the Revell area would be a socially acceptable repository site based on their comments at NWMO hosted community events. Neighbouring community residents were encouraged to participate in borehole discussions (e.g. community coffee sessions and BBQ's, Dryden Fall Fair). There was strong attendance and support as well as participation from leaders associated with the LSBs in the open house mapping exercise. Their input helped to lead to the choice of the Revell site and showed their support.

The social acceptability of the repository site was discussed by grassroots residents in the neighboring communities. The Dymont and Wabigoon village engagement events, the natural environment workshop, the field investigations workshops and speaker series were all well attended by neighbouring residents. During the discussions in 2017 and 2018, trapping interests and Sustainable Forest Licence Holders were also engaged. The character of the study area and trapping history and challenges were discussed. Trapping interests are supportive of the repository as long as it does not interfere with trapping.

In summary, there is participation in discussions and strong support regarding a socially acceptable repository site.

3.3 Potential Alignment of the APM Project with Community (and Area) Aspirations

Should the APM project be approved in the Ignace Area there will be changes to community well-being. Leaders and residents were continually asked, does the APM project align with the values and aspirations of the community.

Local and area Councilors and community leaders have a growing understanding of the project's social and economic benefits as well as an evolving understanding of their social and economic development aspirations. There is a high degree of leadership cohesion regarding desires for positive changes to community well-being and the potential role the NWMO and other organizations can play in supporting it. Township of Ignace staff have been helpful in leading residents to articulate what community well-being means to them. In addition, they have developed and advanced strategic initiatives (e.g. Principles, Strategic Plan, Economic Development Plan, Community Improvement Plan [CIP]). There is a greater understanding of their social, cultural and economic development goals and aspirations in relation to how the project will benefit them. A Partnership Working Group has been initiated. Ignace leaders are clear about their aspirations and expect to benefit socially and economically from APM advancing in the area in a manner that is consistent with their aspirations.

Community leaders feel the project has the potential to address many of the common economic development and social priorities and aspirations for Ignace and the area and they see the opportunities to enhance their well-being. The Learn More Centre, its staff and facilities, continue to have a strong positive presence in the community. The Centre is a visible reminder of NWMOs presence and support.

The potential for the development of a mutually agreeable implementation plan for the project is high. A portion of each ICNLC meeting is dedicated to discussing the potential allocation of funds in support of community initiatives. The community would like to see APM support facilities be located in Ignace, but they understand that certain APM components may be sited elsewhere in the area.

There is evidence of optimism about the social and economic benefits of APM, seen through local entrepreneurs investing in the community in housing and accommodation services. At the same time, Ignace continues to experience the same economic and population pressures as other Northern Ontario communities. While community members look forward to the changes in the community as result of APM, they still want to maintain their small-town feel, current ways of life and connections to nature.

As a neighbouring community, Dryden, the Local Services Boards of Wabigoon Village and Melgund are supportive of the project being consistent with their vision and strategies. As the communities learn more about the social and economic potential of APM, there will need to be further discernment about how APM aligns with their needs and aspirations.

Should Ignace continue past the next stage of the narrowing process, there will be increased regional interest, particularly for Dryden leaders and residents. Ignace leaders wish to achieve desirable benefits in relation to the Economic Development Plan and Community Improvement Plan, but they also accept that benefits can be spread to Dryden and other communities in Northwestern Ontario. Dryden leaders would increasingly see that their aspirations are also aligned. The same applies to other Northwestern Ontario leaders.

A continuation of current NWMO and Ignace engagement activities are appropriate for the residents of the unincorporated communities of Wabigoon Village and Melgund. Residents have a good understanding of the APM project, safety, transportation and community well-being. They also value the natural environment. During earlier engagements they asked excellent questions and have a good understanding of APM. The conclusion can be drawn that they will continue to be supportive because the APM aligns with their values.

Neighbouring communities are generally aligned based on information received from open houses and individual interviews. Neighbours at the grassroots level value the natural environmental setting and resources and will be expecting that APM will have minimal effects on the natural environment. Some lodge and camp owners as well as outfitters have concerns on whether APM will affect local tourism. There is awareness within the neighbouring communities of well-being opportunities and the value of the investment in Northwestern Ontario.

In summary, we conclude there is strong alignment of local aspirations and strategies with what can be provided by the APM project in Ignace and neighbouring communities at the leadership and grassroots level.

4.0 Summary

Overall, there is strong potential for achieving a partnership to advance the project in the area. The APM project has the potential to further develop partnership opportunities that can bring long-term success to the communities in the Ignace area and Northwestern Ontario. The key evidence is:

- The leadership (Mayor, Councillors, senior administrators, ICNLC, etc.) of Ignace has publicly expressed support. Positive support has lasted for many years and continues with the newly appointed Mayor and ICNLC. While there is an opportunity to engage some seniors and those who chose not to be engaged, the residents already engaged express support and additional engagement is only expected to increase this;
- There is support for the safety case for APM in Ignace. The neighbouring communities and local services boards (e.g. Wabigoon Local Services Board, Melgund Local Services Board, and Dryden) have been engaged and are positive and supportive;
- There has been and continues to be strong support for activities relating to borehole drilling in the area throughout 2019. Residents have been engaged regarding borehole drilling since 2016, and the leadership wishes to move forward with borehole drilling as it indicates siting progress; and
- The APM project would address many of the common economic development and social priorities and aspirations for Ignace and the area. Leaders and the grassroots see the opportunities to enhance their well-being. They recognize the regional implications and opportunities associated with the APM project and are supportive of continuing to learn more in the future. They believe that these opportunities will encourage people to stay in the communities and attract a younger population.

References:

Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited. *Nuclear Waste Management Organization Additional Boreholes and Activities: Public and Stakeholder Engagement Report for Ignace, ON* Rev. 2, dated June 13, 2019

Nuclear Waste Management Organization, 2019. Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2019 to 2023.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization, 2019. Steps in the Process (Available Online)
<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Steps-in-the-Process>.

Appendix A – Engagement Event Summary Tables

1. Selected Engagement Activities Site Selection for Borehole Testing in Ignace

Selected engagement activities for key milestones in the site selection for borehole testing in Ignace from 2016 to 2019 are listed below. In addition to these key activities, borehole engagement materials have been shared at numerous public engagement events and meetings.

Engagement Event	Date
ICNLC meeting - NWMO formally presented its plan to investigate the geology by initiating borehole drilling in the Ignace area	July 12, 2016
Dryden Fall Fair - NWMO shared information explaining the plan to conduct borehole drilling	August 25-28, 2016
ICNLC meeting - members participated in a facilitated mapping conversation in a workshop setting to solicit their comments on the identification of acceptable borehole areas	October 25, 2016
Open House - held at the Ignace NWMO Learn More Centre - attendees participated in a mapping activity and social and environmental considerations were identified	October 26 - 27, 2016
ICNLC meeting - members were presented with the general findings of the October 2016 Open House	January 31, 2017
ICNLC meeting - members discussed the initial borehole drilling site 1 within the Revell area	February 28, 2017
Open House – held to inform people of the borehole drilling site and related activities	March 1 - 2, 2017
ICNLC meeting - NWMO presented its plans to undertake additional borehole drilling in the Revell area	June 27, 2017
ICNLC meeting - a technical update on the drilling of borehole 1 as well as future boreholes 2 and 3 and the temporary access roads	July 20, 2017
Open House – held to provide a technical update on the boreholes	July 21, 2017
Community update – technical update held in Dymont	July 22, 2017
Dryden Fall Fair - NWMO had a display booth with the Used Fuel Transportation Package (UFTP) exhibit	August 24 - 26, 2017
ICNLC meeting - NWMO presented its plans to undertake additional borehole drilling in the Revell area	June 19, 2018
ICNLC meeting - NWMO presented a technical update on proposed boreholes 4, 5, 6 and geotechnical and natural environmental studies	July 20, 2018
Open House – technical update held at the Learn More Centre in Ignace	July 21, 2018
Community Update – held in Wabigoon Village	August 22, 2018

Engagement Event	Date
Dryden Fall Fair – NWMO had a display booth and provided an informational update	August 23 - 25, 2018
Open House – held in Dymont for a discussion about the boreholes and additional studies	October 20, 2018
ICNLC meeting - NWMO presented a technical and operational update on the results of drilling borehole 1	November 20, 2018
Open House - additional comments were provided by residents on boreholes 4, 5, 6 and the additional studies	April 4, 2019
Community Update – informational update held in Dymont	May 4, 2019
Mobile Learn More Centre available in Dryden	July 30, 2019
Open House – held at the Ignace Learn More Centre to engage seasonal residents about the boreholes (Mobile Learn More Centre present)	August 1, 2019
Dryden Fall Fair – NWMO had a display booth and provided an informational update	August 22 - 24, 2019
Village of Wabigoon community update with Mobile Learn More Centre	September 2, 2019

2. Engagement Activities: Partnership Roadmap / Identification of Values and Principles in Ignace

In 2017 to 2018, the NWMO and Township of Ignace 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 an open house were advertised in the local newspaper (the Driftwood) and through the ICNLC website and via posters in the community.

Engagement Event	Date
Meeting of the Partnership ICNLC sub-group consisting of Township of Ignace Staff, ICNLC members and NWMO to develop common values and principles	September 27, 2017
Meeting of the Partnership ICNLC sub-group consisting of Township of Ignace Staff, ICNLC members and NWMO to develop common values and principles	October 30, 2017
Partnership Sub-Group meeting in Ignace	January 15, 2018
Partnership Working Group Meeting #1 (values and principles)	February 15, 2018
Partnership Working Group Meeting #2 (values and principles)	March 27, 2018
Ignace Open House at the Learn More Centre on partnership principles and update on additional borehole drilling plans and studies	April 18, 2018
Small group meetings (Ignace Badminton Club, Silver tops Seniors and Ignace Area Business Association) to talk about the values and principles	April 19, 2018
NWMO shared the values and principles partnership work with the Ignace Healthy Working Group	April 24, 2018
NWMO shared the values and principles partnership work with the Loonie Lunch Ladies	April 27, 2018
NWMO visit to Ignace School (grades 7 and 8 class) to share values and principles partnership work	May 1, 2018
NWMO shared the values and principles partnership work at the Ignace Recreation Committee meeting	May 1, 2018
Partnership Working Group Meeting #3 (values and principles)	May 16, 2018

Appendix B – Comment Form and Map of Additional Boreholes

Community conversations on borehole plans and additional studies

We need your input

Updated – March 2019

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is conducting geoscientific studies in the area to determine if there are rock formations that have the potential to satisfy safety requirements for a deep geological repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The current site evaluation activity involves drilling initial boreholes at a potential repository location to further understand the geology.

Through discussion with people in the area about a number of potential geologically suitable areas, the NWMO identified an initial borehole study location in a rock formation known as the Revell Batholith. We previously shared the site for a first borehole, and we engaged in discussions on sites for two additional boreholes. Additional boreholes (up to seven) are now being planned for this borehole drilling project within the same area to further explore the geology, accompanied by a series of related studies.

1. Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural, or natural environment matters in relation to identified locations for boreholes 4, 5 and 6? If so, what are they, and how should they be addressed?

2. Are you aware of any social, economic, cultural, or natural environment matters related to other areas in Oval A, where additional borehole sites will be identified based on ongoing geological studies? If so, what are they, and how should they be addressed?

Additional studies support data collection on the geosphere and natural environment. The next phase of studies involve surface- and subsurface-based geophysical studies (2D seismic studies) along temporary access roads, and a meteorological monitoring station and micro-seismic monitoring station at a borehole site. Future studies may involve shallow groundwater monitoring wells, hydrological data collection, geotechnical shallow ground penetration tests, and surface-based environmental studies.

3. Do you have any comments on the studies to be undertaken and how these will be conducted?

Contact information:

All comments will be shared with the township. However, your name and contact information will be treated as confidential unless you indicate otherwise by checking the box below.

Name (required): _____ Affiliation (if any): _____

Address: _____

Tel.: (____) _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

☐ Please share my name and contact information with municipal representatives.

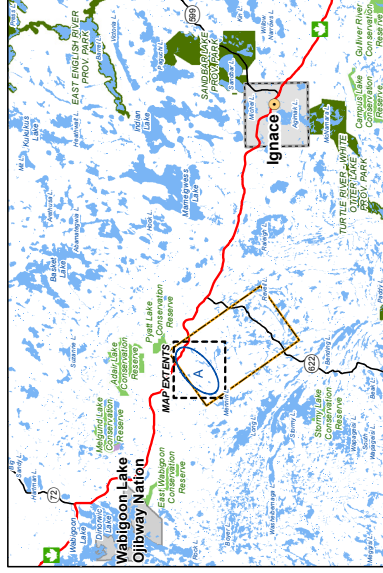
Thank you! Please drop off the comment sheet at the NWMO community office or send to:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

22 St. Clair Avenue East, Sixth Floor, Toronto, ON M4T 2S3 Fax: 647.259.3692 Email: learnmore@nwmo.ca

Locations of additional boreholes

For discussion with people in the area

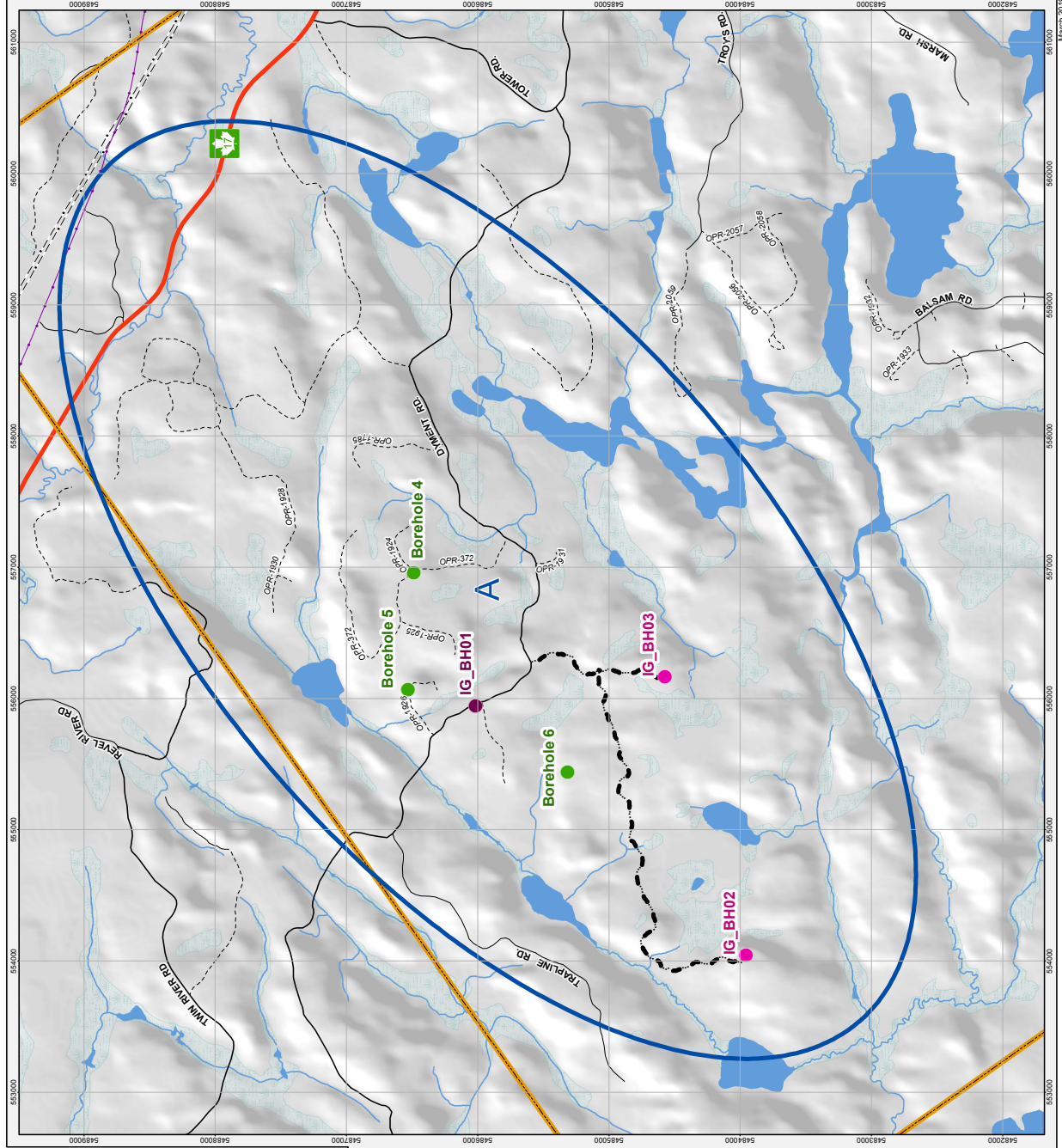


LEGEND

- Active Site for Borehole Studies: Borehole 1
- Permitted Site for Borehole Studies: Boreholes 2&3
- Potential Site for Borehole Studies: Boreholes 4-6
- Potential Geologically Suitable Area
- Temporary Withdrawal Area
- Location of Temporary Access Road: Boreholes 2&3
- Highway 17
- Primary Road
- Branch Road
- Operations Road
- Transmission Line
- Pipeline
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

SCALE 1:30,000

REFERENCES
Base Data - MNR LIO, obtained 2005-2015, CANMAP ©2006.4
Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator
Datum: NAD83 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 15N



SCALED REPOSITORY FOOTPRINT FOR REFERENCE

Approx. Surface
Facility Footprint
(600x550m)



Approx. Underground
Repository Footprint (3x2km)

nwm

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March 2019

Appendix C – Brochure on Additional Studies

Adaptive Phased Management: Additional boreholes and studies – Ignace

Why are boreholes being drilled in the Township of Ignace area?

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is currently undertaking borehole drilling in the vicinity of the Township of Ignace. Drilling is being conducted in support of the Adaptive Phased Management siting process for a deep geological repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The initiation of borehole drilling is one of the means to better understand the geological and physical conditions of the rock at a potential repository site, and potential to meet the robust safety requirements of the project.

What activities have occurred to date, and what else is planned?

As part of the NWMO's Phase 2 preliminary assessments, geoscientific studies have commenced to determine if there are rock units that have the potential to satisfy the safety requirements for a deep geological repository. This involves drilling initial boreholes at a potential repository location to further understand the geology. Through discussion with people in the area, we identified initial borehole locations. The drilling of one borehole is complete, and fieldwork is planned/ongoing for two additional boreholes.

We are planning for the next steps of studies:

- Up to seven additional boreholes are planned in the same general study area based on ongoing geological studies;
- Locations for the next phase of boreholes studies involving three boreholes have been identified; and
- Additional temporary access roads may be required.

Additional studies in the area are also being planned. We need your input to help plan this work.

How is long-term testing and monitoring at borehole sites being implemented?

The NWMO is planning to conduct long-term testing and monitoring at borehole sites. Site access will be maintained to the borehole and equipment used for monitoring and taking fluid samples at depths of up to 1,000 metres. A monitoring well installation will be placed inside many of the boreholes to measure pressures at isolated intervals in the rock and can be used to take water samples, if possible.



Example of borehole with enclosure



Example of borehole with a cap

What additional studies are planned as part of the borehole drilling project?

Additional studies conducted relative to the study area may include:

- 1. Surface- and subsurface-based geophysical studies** – Geophysical studies such as 2D seismic studies will contribute to the understanding of the land and geology, and will help us identify and interpret structures below the surface. Geophones will be used to record induced ground vibrations and allow mapping of underground features. Studies are planned to be performed along existing access roads. Path cutting may be required for off-road seismic source locations.
- 2. Micro-seismic monitoring** – Micro-seismic monitoring will be conducted, and up to 10 monitoring stations will be installed to monitor micro-seismic activity. These will be used to confirm the low long-term risk (frequency and magnitude) of seismic events. Seismic monitoring installations will be installed either in small concrete vaults in contact with the bedrock or in shallow (at a depth of a few metres) drilled bedrock wells.
- 3. Meteorological monitoring** – Atmospheric conditions will be monitored to understand the above-ground portion of water balance in the study area. A meteorological monitoring station will be installed to monitor weather conditions (e.g., wind, temperature, atmospheric pressure, and relative humidity). The monitoring station will have instrumentation and data loggers that are powered by solar panels.



Example of meteorological monitoring station

4. **Groundwater monitoring** – Shallow groundwater monitoring data will be used to allow detailed hydrogeological models to be constructed. These models will allow for a better understanding of the interaction of the shallow groundwater system, surface water and groundwater systems at depth. Shallow groundwater wells will be installed using a small drill rig (approximately 10 locations) to collect data up to depths of approximately 100 metres below ground surface.



Example of truck-mounted drill rig

5. **Hydrological data collection** – Surface water conditions such as rainfall, lake and reservoir levels, stream flows, air and water temperatures, evapotranspiration, and humidity will be measured at specific sites to determine how water has moved through the region's freshwater reservoirs. This will be measured at the meteorological monitoring station, shallow water level monitoring wells, and stream gauging stations. This data will be input into a water balance model to allow for a better understanding of where water is located and how it moves.
6. **Geotechnical studies** – Geotechnical studies help the NWMO to understand the local behaviour of shallow earth materials such as the depth of geological units, rock types, and the nature of fractures in the rocks. Shallow ground penetration tests and shallow test pits will determine density, permeability, consolidation, and strength of the geology. Small drill rigs will be used to conduct standard foundation testing. Drill rigs can be truck mounted or track mounted. The results will be combined to develop input for facility planning.
7. **Surface-based environmental data collection** – Environmental studies will be used to inform the understanding of the natural environment and existing local conditions, and will be used to confirm conditions and support environmental management plans. Environmental data collection activities include trail access and maintenance, surface water and soil sample collection and analysis, terrestrial and aquatic biology sample collection, acoustic monitoring stations, tagging and telemetry, and trail camera installation.



When will a site be selected for a repository?

Confirming a safe site will take several years of progressively more detailed technical, scientific, social, cultural, and economic studies, as well as engagement of people from the area, including the interested community, and First Nation and Métis communities. The NWMO is conducting studies to explore suitability to host the project in a number of areas in Ontario. If findings from drilling and testing initial boreholes provide strong confidence that a location may be potentially suitable to host a repository, and if strong partnerships reflecting area support can be developed, detailed site characterization activities could be conducted and would require several more years. During detailed site characterization, the NWMO would collect additional information and complete analyses required to assemble a safety case for a deep geological repository at that location.

Learn more. Be involved.

NWMO representatives are now working in the area. You can also find us at the Learn More Centre and at a number of community events throughout the year.

For more information, please contact:

Ignace Learn More Centre
304 Main Street, Ignace, Ontario P0T 1T0
Tel.: 1.807.934.2472

Nuclear Waste Management Organization
22 St. Clair Avenue East, Sixth Floor
Toronto, Ontario M4T 2S3, Canada
Tel.: 416.934.9814 Toll Free: 1.866.249.6966
Email: contactus@nwmocanada
Website: www.nwmocanada

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Appendix D – Partnership Document



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June 2018

Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update

Over the past several months, a series of engagement activities were conducted in Ignace. Their focus was to develop a set of 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 Ignace, 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

Respect and
regard

Accountability,
responsibility and
transparency

Diversity,
inclusivity, equity,
and
interdependence

Integrity and
honesty

Communication

Managed growth

Summary of activities and community discussions about principles

Purpose of these community discussions

Ignace 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 2010, Ignace 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 the Ignace area, and align with Ignace's future plans – including vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals for the community – as outlined in the Township of Ignace 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

Ignace 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 to be implemented in the community.

The purpose of these recently completed community engagement activities was to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations. These values and principles will set the foundation for the way in which Ignace 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 Ignace, 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 Ignace's priorities and objectives. It will also explore the investments that could be made in the near term and the longer term associated with the project, 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 Ignace is willing, and if a supportive partnership can be developed.

Engaging the community

Over the past several months, the NWMO and the community of Ignace have worked together to develop draft values and principles to guide discussions and future decision-making between Ignace and the NWMO as we continue to explore the project. To do this, the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) set up a subgroup that was made up of the economic development manager, acting clerk/administrator, chair of the ICNLC, coordinator of the ICNLC, mayor, and NWMO staff. Over two meetings in fall 2017, the subgroup developed a work plan that called for the establishment of a working group made up of the subgroup, and community members from health care, education, protection services, spiritual/faith, business, tourism, seniors, youth, and recreation. The working group was brought together to develop an initial set of values and principles, and propose a list of engagement activities that would provide the community with a variety of opportunities to review and provide input. Through two meetings in early 2018, the working group developed a set of draft values and principles on which to seek community input.

An open house at the Learn More Centre started the feedback process, and was publicly advertised through the Ignace Driftwood newspaper, online through Facebook, and through a community mail out sent via direct mail to all property owners in the township. Members of the public were invited to attend the open house where they could meet with NWMO staff and learn about the project in general. A workbook on the draft values and principles was offered to everyone. People were invited to provide their immediate feedback verbally, and/or written feedback and leave it at the Learn More Centre or email it to the NWMO by May 1.

In addition to the open house, NWMO staff met with several small local groups and organizations to provide an opportunity to give input on the values and principles. By reaching out across the community, including seniors and school children, the feedback includes perspectives from a wide range of groups. During meetings, NWMO staff provided a brief project overview and presented a summary of the township's involvement in the project to date. Working group members and NWMO staff collaboratively explained the importance of partnership for selecting a preferred site for the project and outlined the nature of discussions that are planned over the next several years.

Following the presentations, some groups reflected on the values and principles as a whole, using the workbook and question sheet as tools. This material was collaboratively developed in advance by the working group and NWMO staff. Feedback was taken throughout the group discussions, including comments and priorities that emerged during the group's review of the values and principles. Note takers were present to record the comments and suggestions. In addition to the community meetings, some residents shared their comments by sending in comments and questions via email.

A third working group meeting was held to discuss the public feedback and finalization of the values and principles.

Focus of discussion

The values and principles emerged from community discussions around the following questions:

1. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way Ignace 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 Ignace 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?

The values and principles that first emerged were then the focus of further discussion at a community open house using the following queries:

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?

Initiatives for gathering community input took place on the following dates:

Sept. 27, 2017	Partnership planning subgroup meeting #1
Oct. 30, 2017	Partnership planning subgroup meeting #2
Jan. 15, 2018	Partnership planning subgroup meeting #3
Feb. 15, 2018	Partnership working group meeting #1
March 27, 2018	Partnership working group meeting #2
April 18, 2018	Publicly advertised community open house
April 19, 2018	Badminton Club breakfast, Silver Tops luncheon, Ignace Area Business Association meeting
April 24, 2018	Ignace healthy working group meeting
April 27, 2018	Loonie Lunch Ladies
May 1, 2018	Grades 7 and 8 class at Ignace School
May 1, 2018	Ignace Recreation Committee meeting
May 16, 2018	Partnership working group meeting #3

Values and principles identified by the community

The following values and principles emerged from these community conversations to guide discussions and future decision-making between Ignace and the NWMO as we continue to explore the project.

Safety	Respect and regard	Accountability, responsibility and transparency	Diversity, inclusivity, equity, and interdependence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on nuclear safety needs to be backed by science. • Safety is an all-encompassing parameter for the project and community. • Safety messaging must be ongoing; people still need to learn and be comfortable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community must be acknowledged, and its well-being respected. • Ignace as a community should be recognized for its leadership on this project. • Community residents are encouraged to learn, be informed, and be open to change and new ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability among partners is essential for a strong partnership. • Communication among partners must be open, upfront and informative. • The NWMO needs to hear and acknowledge community aspirations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engagement of community members, and in particular youth, is essential to prepare them for future employment opportunities. • The social, economic and cultural aspirations of Ignace are fundamentally intertwined with the surrounding region. • Community hospitality is a defining characteristic and huge strength of Ignace.
Integrity and honesty	Communication	Managed growth	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust requires honest information. • Trust, honesty and respect are essential for sustainable relationships. • Commitments will be honoured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people informed must be ongoing, and we should use a variety of media and social media platforms. • Project information must be distributed evenly across the community. • The community must have the information necessary to enable informed decisions. • Communication needs to be clear, concise and easily understood by everyone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignace requires assistance to build capacity through training and physical infrastructure. • Ignace has a family feel; the community is gentle and generous – these qualities should not be lost. • The community needs to be sustainable. 	

Next steps

With these guiding values and 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. It will also 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 the engagement activities, people also shared suggestions on next steps, and how to get more people involved in learning and discussions.

- Increase the accessibility of information through graphics and easy-to-understand literature, and through Frequently Asked Questions style documents. Tailor messaging to various audiences such as seniors and youth.
- Build understanding of the project and the environment, especially relating to groundwater and fishing.
- Increase availability of information related to borehole drilling and updates.
- Build understanding of the role and opportunities related to the Centre of Expertise, and how social and economic sustainability can be addressed through project facilities/components and investments.
- Increase proactive engagement to foster community understanding of, and involvement in, the project. Reach out to community groups and individuals; do not wait for them to come to the NWMO.
- Build understanding of the needs of the community, including the unique circumstances of seniors and youth.
- Build understanding of the need for the project and why the interim storage of today is not a long-term solution.
- Build understanding of the project steps that lie ahead, including regional engagement, agreement making, nature of agreements and the persons involved, project implications for property values, and potential uses for the supporting project facilities and manufacturing plants after closure.

Learn more

Review the history of Ignace's involvement in the site selection process:
www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Study-Areas/Ignace-and-Area

Review the Township of Ignace 2015-2019 Strategic Plan:
<http://town.ignace.on.ca/content/public-notice>

Review the activities of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee:
<http://clinfo.ca/ignace>

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