

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: September 21, 2015 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT On September 21, 2015

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie, Council Chairman
David Cameron, Vice Chairman
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs
Diane Kelly
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Donald Obonsawin
Linda Thompson

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash President and CEO
Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection
Gillian Morris Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs
Joe Gaboury Director, Aboriginal Relations
Paul Gierszewski Director, Safety & Licensing
Chris Hatton Director, Nuclear Design & Transportation (Items 11-15)
Monique Hobbs Siting Project Coordination Manager
Michael Hung Chief Financial Officer (Items 6-7)
Elena Mantagaris Director, Government & External Relations
Pat Moran Corporate Secretary & General Counsel (Items 11-15)
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson VP, Design and Construction

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed as written. David Crombie introduced and welcomed two new Members of the Advisory Council: Mr. Joseph Cavalancia and Ms. Diane Kelly.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the meeting convened on May 27, 2015.

STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

Mr. Nash also welcomed the two new Council members and commented that from both a management and Board perspective the Advisory Council has made valuable contributions since its formation in 2002.

Mr. Nash reported on the following recent activities in the NWMO work program:

- NWMO continues the two large multi-year projects of APM site selection and the engineered barrier proof testing program;
- The siting process continues, engaging both municipal and surrounding Aboriginal communities;
- NWMO continues to provide an overview of its work to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission;
- Progress and developments in OPG's low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) DGR continue to be monitored;
- Staffing continues to be strengthened in key areas and work continues to build local capability in the APM siting areas; and
- NWMO's continues tracking developments in the Canadian nuclear industry and reported on international developments in the U.S., and Korea.

Council members discussed the pending decision on the OPG L&ILW DGR and the current status of new nuclear build at the Darlington site.

4. APM Overview and Risk Assessment

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management highlighted key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation. Council members discussed the changes in the risks over the last period.

5. APM Site Selection Process: Status Update

Management provided a detailed review of the status of the site selection process.

The briefing began with a review of the remaining Phase 1 preliminary assessment work, being conducted with the community of Central Huron. The Phase 1 Preliminary Assessment determines whether the area has a strong potential to meet the siting criteria. The Advisory Council received a presentation on findings to date for Central Huron, including the geotechnical findings and social and economic base of the area. Council members discussed the assessment findings, including NWMO's plans for finalizing and communicating findings of the Phase 1 assessment.

Management then provided a detailed review of the Phase 2 preliminary assessments in progress in different siting areas, and the work with municipal and Aboriginal communities. Council members discussed the Phase 2 progress against plans, the continuing processes for narrowing down study areas and possible timelines adopted for planning purposes related to completion of the Phase 2 siting assessments and selection of a preferred location for the project. Council members discussed with management the budget associated with the multi-year project.

Council members engaged with management on detailed aspects of the siting process.

- In response to a Council question as to whether Community Liaison Committees remain active after a community exits the siting studies process through the narrowing down process, management confirmed that the Committees are disbanded at that time. Staff outlined the resource programs available to neighbouring communities to support continued involvement where they are in the vicinity of active siting areas.
- A Council member asked for elaboration on NWMO's walking the land with Elders as part of siting field work. Management described the process to date of walking the land together with Elders in siting areas to examine the rock, fractures and other characteristics and outline the kinds of information NWMO is seeking to obtain concerning the type of geology in the area. Elders also share their learning and perspectives as this collaborative walking takes place.
- Noting that NWMO continues to work with national and provincial Aboriginal organizations, a Council member underscored the importance of also continuing to work with individual Treaty organizations, who speak for their respective areas. Staff confirmed that this Treaty-level engagement is continuing.
- A Council member inquired as to extent of communication between siting communities. Staff responded that dialogue at this point is primarily focused within individual communities and with their Aboriginal and municipal neighbours. NWMO referenced some examples of conferences and meetings that brought together all siting communities on topics of mutual interest.
- In response to Council questions, staff explained the differences in the geoscientific field work required in crystalline rock and sedimentary rock study areas and the basis for those different work programs.
- Council was briefed by staff on planning for initial borehole drilling in the study areas. Council discussed that these activities will raise the profile of the APM project locally and in the broader region. Council members cautioned NWMO to be prepared that when a community in the process progresses to borehole drilling there may be attention given to drilling that is beyond the local community. The timing and preparedness for this more active part of the field work will need to be fully assessed and planned out to minimize risks and communicate clearly to the broader audiences that will likely engage.

- To guide NWMO on a socially-acceptable path forward, A Council member recommended that management review the work by Peter Sandman that he felt would be instructive for the APM project. (*)
- In the discussion of the initial borehole drilling, staff reported that the siting communities see this as an important activity for building and broadening awareness of the project with their community members and neighbours, to encourage learning and consideration of the project.
- Across siting areas generally, Council members suggested NWMO should, whenever possible, continue to assist fostering relationships within and between Aboriginal communities and municipalities.

6. Defining Objectives of Phase 2 Site Selection

Management reported on work in progress to fully scope out the Phase 2 siting objectives. These objectives will guide work programs. The Advisory Council was invited to discuss and provide advice on preliminary objectives for safety and partnerships.

Derek Wilson led a discussion on the components of safety objectives. In discussing the interweaving of Aboriginal traditional knowledge, Council suggested some modifications in wording. Council advised that in communicating safety objectives to the public, it will be important to be explicit about timeframes being addressed, as long-term safety will be a fundamental area of interest.

Jo-Ann Facella and Bob Watts reviewed objectives to be addressed in the siting work with regard to selecting a site that has the potential for ensuring a strong partnership with communities, First Nation and Aboriginal people. Council proposed that context be provided to clarify the focus of work with communities being led by NWMO. Management undertook to make these refinements. (*)

Council also advised that the site ultimately selected for the project should be one in which communities share NWMO's core corporate values. A Council member cautioned NWMO from adding excessive governance in a partnership as some of the communities NWMO works with are very small.

7. 2016-2020 Business Plan / Strategic Objectives

Management provided the Council with its draft 2016-2020 Business Plan for review and discussion. The milestones, objectives and assumptions were reviewed for both the APM Site Selection process and the Engineered Barrier Design and Proof Testing program.

The Council provided NWMO with some suggestions for public communication of the business plan which will be in the form of the Implementation Plan.

- Council emphasized that the Implementation Plan should be clear about NWMO's activities for the five-year planning period. Management confirmed that the five-year activities would be set out in the Implementation plan. (*)
- In querying why the plan speaks about longer time horizons beyond five years, NWMO noted that the public audience has requested that NWMO give a clearer sense of what will be involved in the longer-term implementation of the APM program. For this reason, some of the longer-term planning milestones were included.

Council members discussed various aspects of NWMO's work in the engineered barrier and proof testing program and also plans for work in the area of transportation over the next five years. The Council emphasized transportation as a critical component of NWMO's work and looks forward to discussing the detailed work plans for transportation work at a future meeting. (*)

8. APM Lifecycle Cost Estimate Update

Management reviewed the work underway to update the 2016 APM lifecycle cost estimate. It was reported that the cost estimate has been under development since 2014 and the key milestones, assumptions and next steps were reviewed with the Council.

Council members discussed the possible impact of new nuclear build, how transportation considerations are addressed within the estimate, and plans for decommissioning of the APM repository.

9. Communicating Planning Timelines

Management discussed the upcoming draft Implementation Plan for 2016-2020 which will be publicly released by early November. Staff reviewed the content of the Implementation Plan, including new areas on siting timeframes, more information on the Centre of Expertise, and activities that will be initiated upon selection of the preferred site.

In discussion with Council:

- Management confirmed that it continues to offer briefings widely with interest groups and a wide range of organizations.
- Council members discussed the concept of the Centre of Expertise and possible scope of the Centre's activities. A Council member suggested a focus on educational facilities and collaboration with the international community could be considered in building the Centre of Expertise. Ms. Shaver noted that a key element of the plan for the development of the Centre of Expertise refers to designing it with guidance from the community in which it will be constructed, and not to be prescriptive at this point. Management confirmed the Centre would support technical demonstration and site characterization work, and be a hub for the international community that will become engaged through visits to the site. NWMO looks forward to engaging communities for suggestions on how the Centre could also best serve their interests.
- A Council member expressed support for the reference in the Implementation Plan to building local capacity, job opportunities and business incubation in the siting area.

10. Community Recognition Program Update

The Advisory Council had previously requested that NWMO provide an update on how communities had been utilizing the Community Well-Being recognition funds provided at the conclusion of Phase 1 work. Staff reported with examples of what was known to date about how communities were directing funds to their respective well-being initiatives. It was reported that communities have used the funds for a wide variety of projects based on needs in their respective areas.

11. Transparency Policy

Pat Moran presented a revised NWMO Transparency Policy that reflected the Council's earlier advice.

Council members continued discussion and proposed additional areas for NWMO review before finalizing the policy to ensure application of the policy was clear. Management agreed to further review the policy based on the Council's discussion. (*)

12. Building Relationships

Council received NWMO's reports on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, engagement activities, media coverage and recent meetings of the Council of Elders.

13. APM Technical Program Update

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on NWMO's APM engineered barrier and proof testing program. Also at the request of Council members, a detailed presentation on NWMO's Mark 2 container design and engineered barrier system was provided.

Council members discussed various aspects of the bentonite buffer and future testing planned for the Mark 2 container.

14. Review of NWMO Support to OPG

Council members were provided with an update on NWMO's work in support of the low and intermediate level waste DGR. It was reported that the public comment period for the last phase of the environmental assessment process for the proposed DGR was completed on September 1st. A decision is expected from the Minister in December 2015.

15. Upcoming Meetings of the Advisory Council

Mr. Nash noted that a joint Board and Advisory Council strategic planning session was scheduled for December 1 from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Council members had a brief discussion about meetings scheduled for next year. It was agreed that the start time for meetings would remain at 9 am.

In camera

The Advisory Council members held an in camera session.

Termination of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 3:50 pm.

Dated the 1st day of December, 2015

David Crombie
Advisory Council Chair