

ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE NWMO

March, 2009

The Honourable Lisa Raitt, P.C., M.P.
Minister, Natural Resources
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Raitt:

I am pleased to write you on behalf of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to highlight some of our activities and deliberations over the past year. Throughout 2008, the Council continued its practice of providing advice and guidance on the organization's work.

As Council members, we are pleased that NWMO is continuing its approach to dialogue and engagement as the organization now prepares to implement Adaptive Phased Management. Council recognizes the effort required to establish and sustain relationships that will be central to moving forward with implementation and is pleased that this remains a cornerstone of NWMO's workplans.

An important NWMO endeavour in 2008 was beginning the collaborative design of a draft process to select a site for the deep geological repository. The Advisory Council conferred with the organization on this, reviewing findings from meetings and engagement activities, and offering suggestions, particularly with regards to engagement and communication. Specifically, we provided input to the drafting of the siting process discussion document, and we reviewed with the NWMO readiness criteria to proceed with dialogues on the proposal. We have reviewed the findings of the public dialogues from 2008 and look forward to discussing NWMO's proposal for an open, transparent and fair siting process.

Long-term used nuclear fuel management is an intergenerational issue which will benefit immensely from the thoughts of youth as Adaptive Phased Management is implemented. The Advisory Council strongly supported and offered advice on convening a youth roundtable to help guide development of a youth engagement strategy. We are confident that this diverse group of young people from the four nuclear provinces will put forward a range of workable proposals to encourage informed and open dialogue with youth on long-term nuclear fuel waste management.

We continue to be supportive of NWMO's efforts to further its relationships with Aboriginal people. The full Council met with Niigani, the Aboriginal working group, in November and, in June, two of our members attended the annual Elder's Forum held in Saskatchewan. The Council has accepted a Niigani invitation to participate in a cultural training session in 2009.

Council is regularly briefed on the technical program supporting implementation of Adaptive Phased Management. We were consulted on, and supported formation of the new Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG). The annual peer review provided by this distinguished group will strengthen the NWMO technical research program and help build confidence in Canada's plan for long-term used nuclear fuel management. In November, we received the first ITRG report, confirming the

appropriateness of the current NWMO technical program and offering suggestions for further study and focus. The Advisory Council was pleased with the rigour of the review, and concurred with the suggestions advanced for further study and emphasis in the research program.

In our independent report on the NWMO's 2005 study, the Advisory Council suggested it would be advantageous for the organization to increase its technical and scientific capacity to address the complex technical and scientific challenges of long-term used nuclear fuel management. The year 2008 saw completion of NWMO's transition to become a stand-alone employer with significantly expanded in-house expertise. The Advisory Council commends this advance and looks forward to continuing a positive and productive relationship with the NWMO.

Sincerely, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Crombie".

The Honourable David Crombie
Chair, NWMO Advisory Council

c.c. David Cameron
Frederick Gilbert
Donald Obonsawin

Rudyard Griffiths
Eva Ligeti
Daniel Rozon

Dougal McCreath
Derek Lister
Marlyn Cook