

March 2012

The Honourable Joe Oliver
Minister, Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Oliver:

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Natural Resources for Canada. I am pleased to write you on behalf of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) regarding our activities over the past year.

Throughout 2011 much of our focus was on the NWMO's work with local communities, both with communities expressing an interest in learning more about the site selection process and with neighbouring communities, including Aboriginal peoples, who might be affected by that process. We were pleased with the initiatives the NWMO has taken to provide communities with the knowledge base and resources they need to make informed decisions about their participation in the siting process.


While we were impressed with the manner and ways in which the NWMO is communicating its work, we felt opportunities should be explored to raise the organization's profile, and in particular NWMO's approach to public engagement in support of the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) program. In this regard, Council is discussing how we may contribute to the increased profile of the organization's work through our own communications.

The Council discussed the role of the Elders Forum and supported NWMO's approach to structuring the Forum so that it is well positioned to advise NWMO for the upcoming phases of work on the APM program. Council continued to underscore the importance of providing for the participation of Aboriginal youth.

Over the year we requested and received updates on a number of subjects including the cost estimates for APM and the plan for developing and demonstrating a system for transferring used fuel from interim reactor storage to long-lived repository containers.

Looking to the future, the Council considered the types of background and expertise Council members should have as the NWMO increasingly engages with local communities, including expertise in the social sciences. In particular, we as Council urged that NWMO broaden membership to include expertise in the discipline of ethics, and we are pleased that the NWMO Board of Directors has addressed this in a recent appointment to the Advisory Council.

Sincerely, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council

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

Hon. David Crombie
Advisory Council Chairman

c.c.: David Cameron Wesley Cragg Dougal McCreath Michel R. Rhéaume
 Frederick Gilbert Eva Ligeti Derek Lister Donald Obonsawin
 Marlyn Cook