

**ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE NWMO**  
c/o NWMO, 22 St. Clair Avenue East, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4T 2S3

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan  
Minister, Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room: C7-1  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

April 2021

Dear Minister O'Regan,

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and offer an update on our work in 2020.

Throughout the year, the NWMO kept us abreast of the progress of implementation of Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel as it continued to advance this important national infrastructure project. We closely followed the organization's efforts to respond and adapt to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which we acknowledge was hard on those who work at the NWMO, the communities in the site selection process, and the whole country. We offered guidance on planning and on the NWMO's recovery plans related to pandemic delays.

Overall, we were pleased to see that while the NWMO had to adapt some timelines for its work plans, it has maintained its overall goals of selecting a site in 2023 and obtaining a licence to construct in 2032. We are happy to report that despite the challenges presented by global events, Canada's plan remains on track. Despite those challenges, the NWMO maintained its engagement activities, whether online or in-person, in accordance with public health guidelines, and continued its dialogue with communities.

In 2020, the Advisory Council continued to monitor and provide advice on the NWMO's site selection process. Some of the topics related to site selection the Council discussed include used nuclear fuel transportation and technical matters related to the long-term safety of the site and deep geological repository. As the NWMO has narrowed its focus to two remaining areas (Ignace and South Bruce, both in Ontario) in the site selection process, the Council also offered advice on plans for establishing the final siting decision process and defining willingness in those communities.

The Council continued to provide advice on items related to the NWMO's stated goals of building meaningful and sustainable partnerships, and members encouraged the NWMO to continue building strong ties with municipalities, and First Nation and Métis communities in each area. The NWMO continued to provide the Council with regular updates on the guidance received from the Council of Elders and Youth, and the Advisory Council members were supportive of the implementation of the NWMO's Reconciliation Policy throughout 2020.

In addition, the Council closely monitored and provided guidance on the NWMO's Transportation Planning Framework development and other work surrounding the eventual transportation of used nuclear fuel.

The Council also monitors Canada's evolving public policy and regulatory landscape related to major infrastructure projects, and advises how Canada's plan may be impacted, for example, by Canada's new Impact Assessment framework. Throughout 2020, we focused on the development of the NWMO's regulatory plans, as well as technical matters related to long-term safety.

We look forward to continuing our work into 2021 and beyond.

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

David R. Cameron  
Chair, Advisory Council to the NWMO

cc: Mr. Donald Obonsawin, Vice-Chair  
Mr. Joseph Cavalancia Dr. Monica Gattinger Ms. Sue Hartwig Dr. Dean Jacobs  
Ms. Diane M. Kelly Dr. Derek Lister Dr. Dougal McCreath Dr. Stella Swanson  
Ms. Linda Thompson