Record 2005-05

Advisory Council to the

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: May 13, 2005 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 49 Jackes Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST. on May 13, 2005.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Fred Gilbert	Member
Eva Ligeti	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

NWMO:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President (Agenda Items 1-6 only)
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary (Agenda Items 1-6 only)
Suzanne Barrett	(Agenda Item 7)

PART I

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. **Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EST.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the Council meetings convened on February 7th and March 14th, 2005.

PART II

REPORTS FROM NWMO

3. Draft Study Report

The President distributed advance copies of the printed Draft Study Report, planned for public release later in May. Council members tabled positive comments on the format and appearance of the final printed document.

The President updated the Council on NWMO's communications plans to support the distribution of the Draft Study Report.

- The report and executive summaries will be produced in both English and French, and will form the basis of a period of public review and comment.
- The President noted that while public engagement had been continuous throughout the study process, the NWMO felt it was important to provide for an additional period of public review and comment on the Draft Study Report, including NWMO's draft recommendation. Accordingly, the NWMO has provided approximately three months for this additional period of public review prior to finalizing the report.

The NWMO reported that its distribution of the Draft Study Report will include personalized letters to participants who have contributed to the study process to date. The letters indicate how NWMO considered the individual's input in the preparation of the Draft Study Report. Advisory Council members expressed their support for this level of personalized feedback to participants.

4. Advance Briefings / Early Reaction

The President debriefed the Advisory Council on comments received during NWMO's advance briefings on the Draft Study and recommendations.

She also provided a verbal report on the NWMO's presentations at the May conference of the Canadian Nuclear Society in Ottawa. NWMO made a number of presentations related to the study and recommendations. Advisory Council member Helen Cooper also presented at these meetings, and agreed to circulate her remarks to other Council members.

The President noted that the NWMO had provided funding to the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities, to support their peer review of NWMO's Draft Study Report.

At the request of the Advisory Council, the President undertook to keep members updated on the nature of feedback received on the Draft Study Report.

5. Next Steps in Engagement

The President invited discussion around the NWMO's proposed programs for engaging the general public and Aboriginal Peoples, following the release of the Draft Study Report.

The President provided a status update on the activities planned for engagement with Aboriginal Peoples. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Engagement would review and discuss the NWMO's proposed activities following the Council meeting. NWMO offered to arrange meetings for Sub-Committee discussion as required.

The President reviewed the timing and locations of dialogues planned in four provinces, and the proposed format of the sessions. The program would include presentations, open discussion and dialogue in working groups. NWMO would be active participants in the dialogue.

The Advisory Council inquired into the possibility of Council members attending to observe the discussions first hand. The President confirmed that this would be possible and invited members to notify the NWMO of any sessions that they wish to attend. NWMO undertook to send out a full listing of the dates and locations to Council members for their consideration.

With respect to the timing of the sessions, Advisory Council members discussed anticipated attendance, noting that not all sessions would be convened on weekends. The President indicated that NWMO would monitor responses and ensure that dialogues are scheduled on days that permit active and full attendance at each location.

PART III

ISSUES RAISED BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

6. Reports on Selected Issues

The NWMO reported back to the Advisory Council on two issues previously raised by the Council.

i) The Advisory Council had expressed interest in knowing how NWMO considered and responded to the 1998 findings and recommendations of the Seaborn Panel. In responding to this request, the NWMO tabled its understanding in the form of a report entitled "Response to the Seaborn Panel Report Recommendations". The completed report produced by NWMO is a 90-page account of:

- *Response to Seaborn Panel conclusions and recommendations*, as contained in the Executive Summary of the report, indicating how NWMO has used this insight and direction as a critical input and starting point for its study. Each Panel recommendation is discussed in the context of the NWMO study;

- *Social Issues / Shortcomings* raised during the Seaborn Panel process, and how NWMO has sought to address those; and

- *Technical Issues/ Shortcomings* raised during the Seaborn Panel process, and NWMO's understanding of how the industry has sought to address these issues since 1996. Work led by Ontario Power Generation, on behalf of the Joint Waste Owners, involved substantial work to address the technical issues or shortcomings raised during the Seaborn Panel process concerning the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) disposal concept.

As a supplement, NWMO has made available on its website Ontario Power Generation's 600-page report that documents how industry has addressed the technical issues and shortcomings in its deep geological repository design concept, used as the basis for Option 1 in the NWMO study. This report is entitled "Response to Technical Comments raised during Environmental Assessment of AECL Disposal Concept". NWMO has also posted on its website, under the heading of "Technology Program for Deep Geologic Repository", reports summarizing research and development activities conducted by Ontario Power Generation on the Deep Geologic Repository over the past several years. These documents are posted on the NWMO website, in conjunction with Background Paper 6-9, to facilitate the review and scrutiny of interested Canadians. NWMO offered to provide printed copies for the Council upon request.

ii) Insurance Provisions – Further to a prior Advisory Council request, the NWMO provided information on the insurance provisions built into the cost estimates for the management options. Following discussion, Council requested additional background on the insurance coverage, premiums and liability associated with nuclear waste management. NWMO undertook to provide this information.

NWMO management withdrew from the meeting.

PART IV

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS – IN CAMERA

Suzanne Barrett joined the meeting.

7. <u>In Camera Session</u>

This portion of the meeting was dedicated to an in camera session of the Advisory Council, without the presence of NWMO management.

Commencing at 11:30 am, and for the duration of the day, the Advisory Council met privately to work on the drafting of the Council's independent comments, as required under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

The Advisory Council was assisted with its drafting by Suzanne Barrett, the writer chosen by the Advisory Council to support the preparation of its report

<u>Termination of Meeting</u>

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

Dated the 20th day of June, 2005
Corporate Secretary